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# THE Country GUIDE

DECEMBER, 1950



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[Photo by H. Armstrong Roberts.]

## THE Country GUIDE

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J. E. BROWNLEE, K.C., President  
Editors: P. M. ABEL and H. S. FRY  
Associate Editors: RALPH HEDLIN and LILLIAN VIGRASS

Advertising Manager: K. D. EWART  
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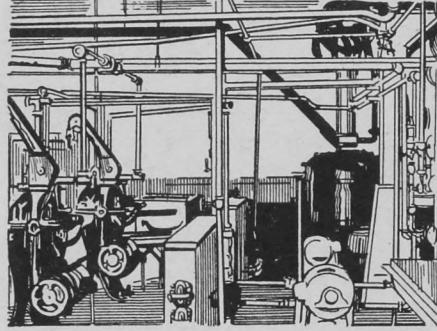
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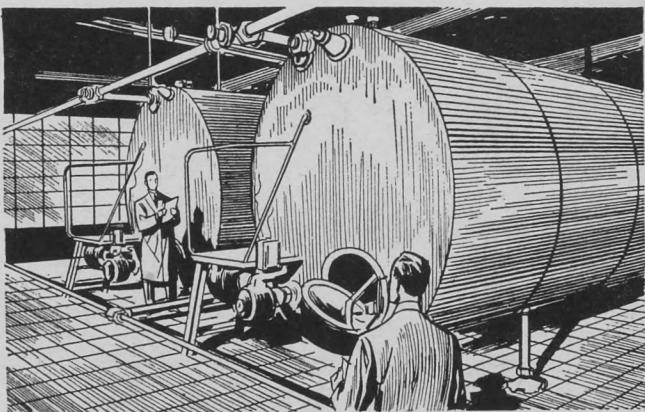
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**IN EVERY LIFE**

# Canadian Nickel



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## *Under the Peace Tower*

I BLOW hot and cold about our Bureau of Statistics. It is costing us taxpayers \$3,500,000 for our federal statistics during the federal year 1950-1951. I am just wondering if Country Guide readers feel they are getting their money's worth.

Several unassorted things got me thinking about the Bureau of Statistics, now costing us three and one-half times as much as it did in 1939. One business man in Montreal said he felt the government was wasting its money in statistics. I did not take that seriously till I talked to a government big shot. He was discussing national economies. He listed the cutting out of afternoon postal deliveries in cities, he mentioned non-essential construction, and then he said:

"And I think they could save some money in the Bureau of Statistics too."

If this man said it, I can be sure that the idea did not originate with him. Somebody very high up in the government must have thought of it. Is this a straw in the wind, showing how it is blowing? Or is it a wild stab in the dark, by a government official?

I found out that many people could not make out a very good case against cutting down statistics, but they could cite some particular item that represented a waste. The question is, if we added up all these little wastes, would it total up to a big waste?

I am told that too many statistics come out into the business world that have little meaning to most people. For instance, certain kinds of statistics could conceivably be important if you manufactured barbed wire. But to the rest of the taxpayers, such information is useless. How many such reports are we compiling?

I am told that the government is now doing many things that industrial firms formerly would do, and indeed would be doing right now, if we did not take the chore off their hands. This expense should certainly not be borne by the government, if the companies concerned would otherwise do the job for themselves.

The Bureau has published figures to show that women in Canada married men some years their senior (forget the exact figure). They also are better educated than their husbands. One may ask: is this vital? Could the economy stand it if we did not (repeat NOT) bother compiling this information?

Finally, all kinds of papers are sent out to all kinds of people. In some cases, the need for such statistics has long since ceased. Yet when people request that they be taken off the lists, they say the figures keep coming just the same. As soon try to turn off Niagara.

Now in all this, I have been rather unfair. I have tried to be the devil's advocate. I must say that people I talk to all believe we should have statistics. There is little criticism here in Ottawa on the streets against the Bureau; there is very little in the Commons. Indeed, we are clearing away a frowsy old field, and cutting splendid new plumbing through the rocks, out at a place called Tunney's Pasture, in order that we may have a fine new Bureau of Statistics Build-



ing. All in all, it looks as if statistics are here to stay.

We have the annual report of the Dominion Statistician, Herbert Marshall, wherein he insists, in his annual report to the government that "the war and postwar periods have brought about an unprecedented demand for statistics."

He goes on to say: "The increased complexity of the world's social and economic problems, the trend toward social security, the acceptance by governments of responsibilities concerning high employment all led to increased needs for statistics at the national level . . . This has been accompanied by an increase in the needs of non-government users of statistics, due among other things to greater industrialization and a growing awareness of the value of statistics to business efficiency."

Mr. Marshall closes this theme with a reference to "the demand for reliable statistics as an aid to administration and policy-making at the higher level."

This of course may be just a man singing for his supper, a government official justifying his job. On the other hand, why should he, after a lifetime at it, not know what he is talking about? As soon walk out onto a farm and dispute a successful farmer on the business of crop rotation as tell the head man at statistics that he doesn't know what he is talking about.

Now have we in statistics gone about as far as we can go, in some instances, or have we still new heights to scale, new ledgers to open?

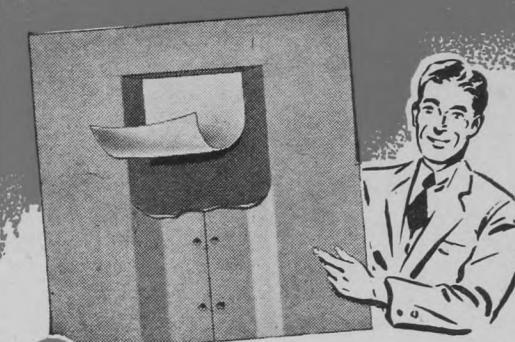
It does seem that we could not live these days without a cost of living index. But is it necessary to break down insanity by provinces at public expense?—frankly I don't know.

I know that statistics are costing us money. Page 13 of the annual report says that the statistics vote for 1950-1951 is \$3,500,000. That seems like a lot of money. But the war cost, according to statistics—and here we go again—the sum of \$15,000,000 a day. At that rate, the statistics come to us at bargain basement rates.

*H. Rose*

**Consider these features  
before you buy**

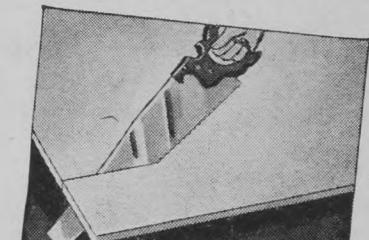
## **WALLBOARD**



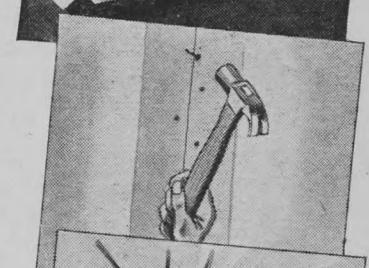
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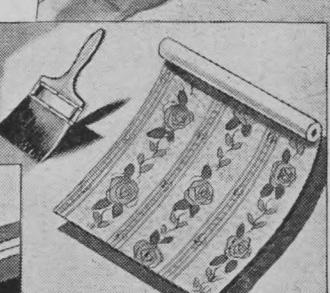
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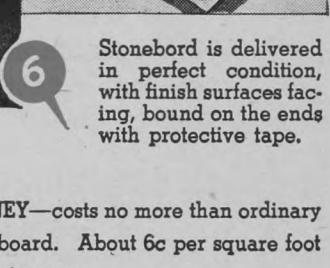
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## An important difference between you and your neighbours

**C**HANCES ARE you have a lot in common with your neighbours. But there is an important difference between *your* plans for the future and *theirs*.

There is something special, for instance, about your plans for retiring. You have your own ideas about how much income you'll need to live on in your later years. And you also determine at what age you'll want to start "taking it easy".

Likewise, you face different problems in protecting the family income in case anything happens to you.

With life insurance you can find security in *both* of these ways — *arranged to fit your own special needs*. You have a choice of many different kinds of policies for different purposes. And the services of trained life underwriters are at your beck and call to help you make that choice.

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So today — and tomorrow — rely on your own life insurance to meet your own personal security needs!

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## The Difference Between Us

*The British N.F.U. justifies the higher cost of home-produced food*

**I**N July the British Minister of Food gave to the House of Commons, figures showing the distribution of the food subsidies as between home-produced and imported commodities, estimated for the year 1950-51. Aside from subsidies for fertilizers and for welfare and milk in schools, which between them cost £42.5 million, home-produced foodstuffs were subsidized to the extent of £203.5 million as compared with £161.4 million subsidy on imported food. The most heavily subsidized single food item is milk at £72 million, all, of course, home produced. Bread and flour between them will cost £89.2 million, of which £69.5 million was paid on the imported product. Imported meat is subsidized at £2.8 million, and home-produced meat at £37.3 million. Imported bacon will cost the government £13.5 million and home-produced bacon £24.7 million, while the figures for shell eggs are £3 million for imported and £23.3 million for home-produced eggs.

The Minister also told the House of Commons that if subsidies were eliminated, bacon would cost 1s 6½d more per pound, shell eggs 1s 5½d more per dozen, meat 1s 4d more per pound, and butter 1s ½d per pound more. Commenting on this, the National Farmers' Union of England and Wales resents the inference that British farmers are inefficient because the British consumer pays more for bacon, eggs and meat when they are bought at home, than when they are purchased from abroad. The two paragraphs following set out the arguments of the N.F.U. on the basis of which it had admittedly secured a relatively favorable price-fixing arrangement and relatively high prices for British produced farm products.

"In the first place," says the Union, "there are very definite reasons why it costs more to produce certain commodities in this country at the present time.

"In bacon and egg production, for example, the chief reason is that our costs of feedingstuffs and labor are higher than in other countries, and these costs are entirely outside the farmer's control. There are few countries today in which farmers pay as much as do British farmers for purchased feedingstuffs, and there are

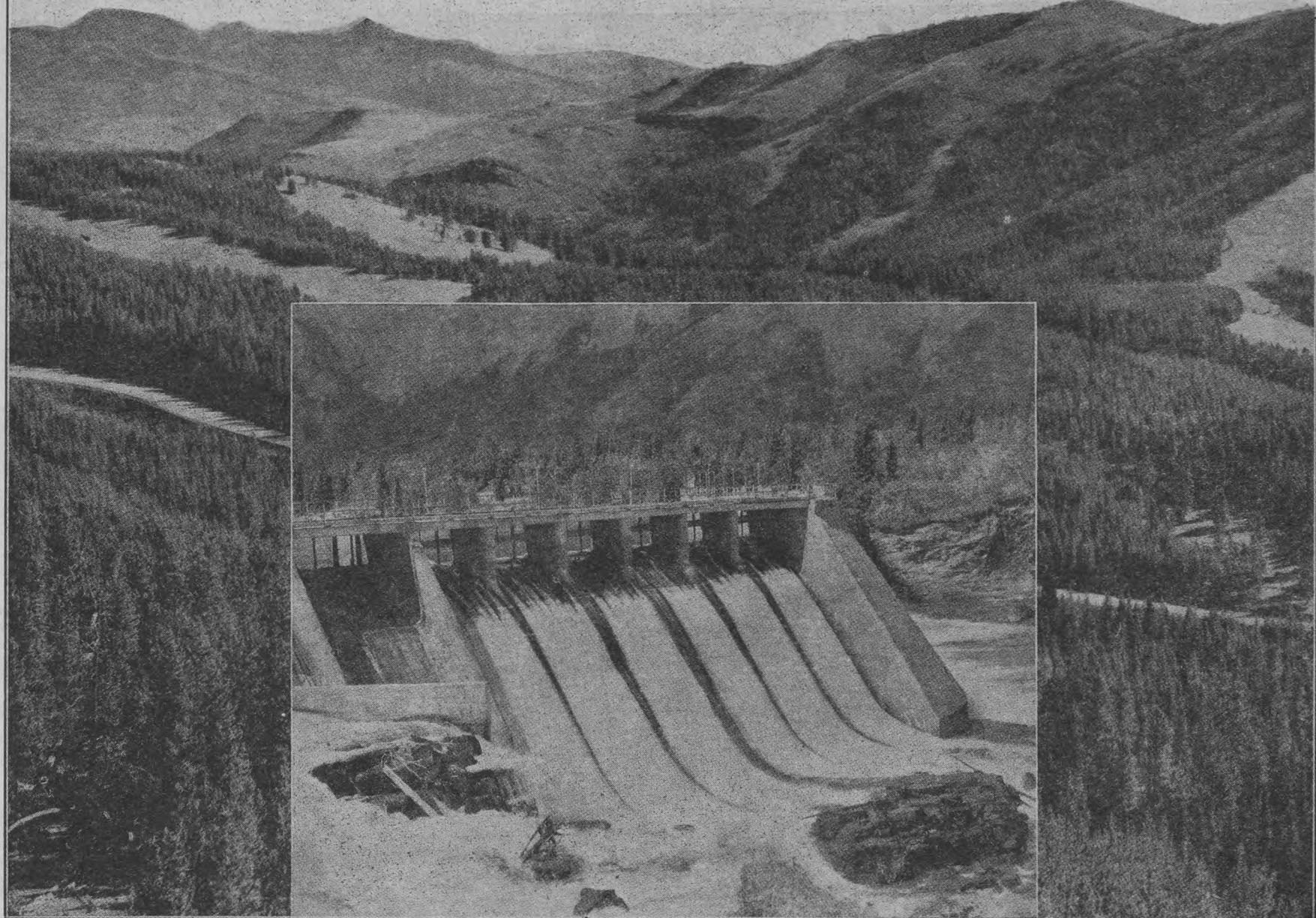
also few countries which are as dependent on purchased feedingstuffs as ourselves. Furthermore, there is far less family labor proportionately in the United Kingdom than in other countries with which comparisons are commonly made. In Denmark, for example, regular hired workers constitute only five per cent of the total labor force, as against the corresponding figure of some 50 per cent in England and Wales. The average holding in Denmark is about half the size of its counterpart in Britain, and the family provides most of the labor, with no fixed remuneration or hours of work. In British bacon and egg production, labor and feedingstuffs account for some 70 to 80 per cent of total costs. Another point worth remembering is that the primary producing countries obtain a higher proportion of their national income from agriculture than we do in this country. This enables them to specialize in the production of a small range of the most paying products.

"Unlike those countries which are able to specialize, the United Kingdom is compelled, for a variety of reasons, economic, scientific, social, climatic and strategic, to adopt a balanced agricultural system. For example, we have to grow more wheat and feedingstuffs primarily in order to save dollars. We have to produce meat, bacon, eggs and milk, both to give us supplies which are at present unavailable from other sources and to preserve soil fertility. Moreover, experience during the last few years in negotiating with Argentina and the Soviet Union for supplies of meat and coarse grains has underlined the need for reducing the United Kingdom's dependence on other countries for her basic food needs. In general, more emphasis is laid on the difference in price between imported and home-produced food, than on the equally important difference between the methods of husbandry in this and other countries. Loss of fertility and soil erosion through progressive exhaustion is still a serious problem in the United States, and this problem is also developing in other exporting countries. It is the result of paying greater attention to low unit costs than to the long-term consideration of maintaining the fertility of the soil."



His Excellency the Governor-General, at the microphone, officially opens Grindley Hall, Ottawa, the new home of the Agricultural Institute of Canada. Left to right are: G. Gordon O'Brien, general secretary; W. R. Carroll, national president, and J. C. Woodward, honorary secretary.

# The Eastern Slopes



*Forest conservation area around Blairmore. Small picture: The Kananaskis power dam on the Bow River.*

COMPETENT engineers began telling prairie farmers a long time ago that out of their 43 million acres of crop land a total of about two million acres might some day be irrigated. But that estimate was based on an assumption that the stream flow of the rivers traversing the prairies would continue undiminished. That has turned out to be a big "if." Present calculations are that they won't unless something is done about it.

Western rivers are not very impressive if you compare the water they deliver to the size of their drainage area. The wheat belt adds almost nothing to its stream flow because in the land of No. 1 Hard the loss from surface evaporation and transpiration from leaf surfaces is potentially greater than the rainfall. Some 32,000 square miles in the dry area are in enclosed basins with no run-off at all. The sky gets back all it gives up.

Rivers like the Qu'appelle and the Souris deliver annually water equivalent to one-fiftieth of an inch if spread over their drainage basins. The Saskatchewan, mightiest of them all, would be but a meandering creek if it had to depend on the run-off from the prairie part of its basin. Its feeders are born in the perpetual snows of the Rockies. After the spring freshets have rushed downstream, our larger streams depend in great measure on the slow melting of the glaciers.

It has been known for some time that the glaciers are disappearing at an alarming rate. The Athabasca glacier is shrinking at the rate of 102 feet a year. The Peyto glacier is receding 79 feet a year. These are two random shots at a general picture. The prevailing rate at which our age-long accumulation of ice and snow is disappearing is causing

by P. M. ABEL

genuine concern among agricultural leaders who hope to expand irrigation, industrialists who are interested in hydro-electric development, and even among municipal authorities in cities which are serviced by river water.

The obvious answer is to develop the eastern slopes of the Rockies into a conservation area, to manage the forests covering them in such a way that they will check the wasteful spring run-off and increase the mid-summer stream flow to compensate for diminishing glacial water. With this in mind, the Alberta and the federal governments reached an agreement on June 19, 1947, embodied in the Eastern Rocky Mountain Forest Conservation Act.

The Act sets aside an area of approximately 9,000 square miles lying immediately east of the crest of the Rockies, and their national parks, Banff and Jasper. It is really the cradle of the Saskatchewan. It is a rough triangle 75 miles wide at the north end and 15 miles at the south. North of that, the waters run to the Arctic, and south of it to the Mississippi. Within this little principality the Board, which administers the Act, with the help of the Alberta department of lands and forests, has wide

powers, even to the point of closing the area to the public in time of extreme fire hazard.

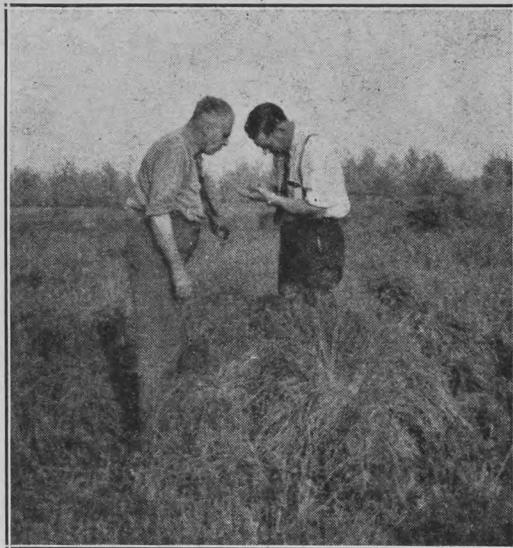
Those who think of forests in terms of British Columbia's imposing stands of spruce and fir, wouldn't think much of the forest cover on the Eastern Slopes. As commercial timber most of it has little immediate value. Much of it is poplar and brush, there are open grass expanses, and even the evergreen stand is mostly young forest, for the whole area has had a bad fire record in the past 100 years.

THE first conservation aim is to put a stop to the fires which have despoiled the timber. The initial step in this direction is the construction of roads. Besides vehicle trails, 250 miles of all-weather roads have been built or are near completion. Hundreds of miles more of both roads and trails for forest protection purposes are projected. These roads in themselves serve as barriers to the spread of fires, especially in the early stages. But more important than that they make it possible to move fire crews and their newly provided automotive fire-fighting equipment quickly within the area.

Along with the road construction program fire spotting towers are being constructed. Nine of them are now up, and the Board plans to increase this number to 24. Short wave radio links towers with fire-fighting crews so that any blaze can be tackled promptly. The Board has also done some useful work in co-ordinating the work of British Columbia and Alberta fire-fighting crews so that the nearest crew can tackle an incipient forest fire without waiting to arrange who will pay for the work.

(Please turn to page 28)

**Ottawa joins hands with Edmonton to protect stream flow vital to irrigation and of prime importance as far east as Lake Winnipeg**



Messrs. Brockelbank and Young examine an alfalfa crop in stock.

FOR ten years, as I have made my annual pilgrimage either eastward or westward across the northern part of Saskatchewan, my eyes have turned northward as I reached the North Battleford area. Northward, I knew, lay a large agricultural area which I had not seen. There lay the continental divide, beyond which were the waters of creeks and rivers that flowed "down north," and also new pioneer areas—Loon Lake, Meadow Lake, Goodsoil, Pierceland—which I must see. About a year ago, however, I began to make definite plans with E. E. Brockelbank, Director of Agricultural Representative Services, at Regina, that we two would visit this area together on some occasion when his work would take him to that part of the province, and when my own convenience would permit.

We could not have chosen a better time. When we left North Battleford on September 22, the weather was as fine as any I had experienced thus far this year. The harvest was considerably more than half completed. Dry roads and bright sunshine combined with the lovely autumn coloring of the trees to provide a continuous panorama of beauty for our enjoyment.

Some distance north of St. Walburg, we reached the divide and about here saw our first field of alfalfa seed. Near the same place, we commented that so far we had not seen a single evergreen tree since North Battleford, all of the trees having been poplar, willow or dogwood. Almost immediately, however, a few showed up in the distance, and from then on were comparatively plentiful. About ten miles north of St. Walburg, we saw our first burned-over land; and the poplars became larger, although not of timber size. We reached Loon Lake in the gathering darkness, and proceeded thence to Meadow Lake approximately 30 miles away. It was, as I recall it, on this last leg of our journey into Meadow Lake, that we saw our one and only evidence of wild animal life. This was a porcupine who hurried ponderously along the side of the road under the spur of our headlights. Nor did we

# Surprising Meadow Lake

by H. S. FRY



Field of oats on breaking, northeast of Meadow Lake.

see any other such animal in more than 1,200 miles of travel during the next five days, nearly all of it north of Prince Albert.

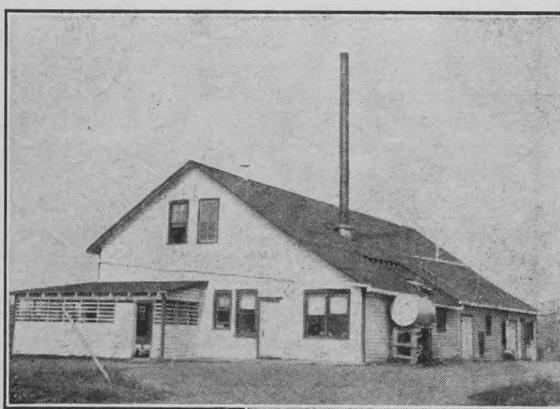
I WAS surprised to find Meadow Lake a town of 2,250 people. It is, however, the natural trading center for a very large area containing an estimated 1,800 families and a total population of approximately 10,000 persons. It extends southward from the town only about six miles, to the Meadow Lake Provincial Forest and Game Preserve, through which a road extends southward to Glaslyn. Eastward the area reaches only about ten miles to the Big River Provincial Forest and Game Preserve. Northward it goes about 25 miles to Township 64; and southwesterly to North and South Makwa, but not as far as Loon Lake, which is fed from St. Walburg and south. Northwest, however, the Meadow Lake trading area extends for 80 miles, 55 miles of this to Goodsoil, which boasts an inland grain elevator (as do North and South Makwa), and a further 25 miles to Pierceland. This large district, Meadow Lake serves as a prosperous trading center, boasting five elevators, which shipped 2,400,000 bushels of all grains in the 1949-50 crop year, including 70,000 bushels trucked to Meadow Lake from the inland elevators at Goodsoil and Makwa. The distribution of cropping in the area is approximately 50 per cent wheat, 25 per cent oats, 10 per cent barley, and 15 per cent alfalfa seed, by acreage.

A typical farm consists of a quarter-section, of which about 100 acres is cultivated. This, say the old-timers whom I met, is too small; so small in fact, that the average farmer cannot afford much land for hay and pasture. There is some dairying; and I was told that the Saskatchewan Co-operative Creameries has a branch at Meadow Lake which is the largest distributing branch in its system, having wholesaled 190,000 pounds of butter, in one-pound prints, two years ago. There is also a small hatchery, which is able, however, to do less than 50 per cent of the total chick business of the area. About three carloads of pigs are shipped per week, but characteristically, pigs are an in-and-out proposition. The lack of adequate fencing, coupled with coyotes, has limited the sheep population to almost nothing. Alfalfa seed, I was told, is a business where one bumper crop in ten years may be expected. Grimm

is grown entirely, and the yield is becoming so unreliable that the acreage is decreasing.

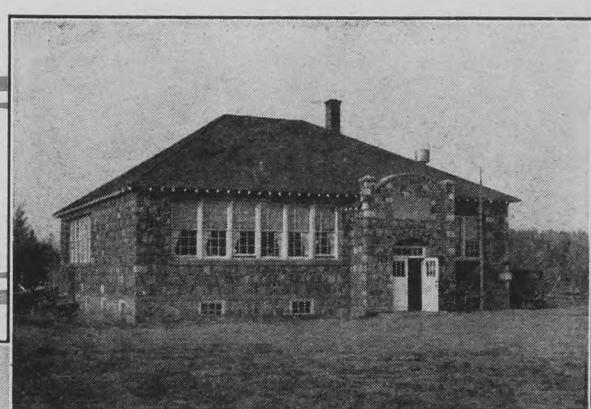
The Meadow Lake area involves approximately 2,800 square miles. Of this, about two-thirds is arable, and only about one-half of the potentially arable land is under cultivation. About one-fifth of the cultivated land is summerfallowed. There are approximately two dozen ranches, mostly along the Beaver River, which flows eastward, north of Meadow Lake, until it reaches the Green Lake Settlement, when it turns northward and empties into Lac Ile a la Crosse. Most of the beef cattle in the area, perhaps two-thirds, are Herefords, the majority of the remaining third being Shorthorns.

ACTUALLY, it was the prospect of livestock production which led to the earliest settlement. One of the early pioneers I learned of was Pete Evans, who is thought to have come into the district about 1908. Through the courtesy of Orel B. Young, agricultural representative at Meadow Lake, I was able to meet a number of old-timers in the district. M. Waddington farms a section of land at Meadow Lake, and maintains a herd of 25 milking Shorthorn cows, from which he supplies fluid milk to the town. Mr. Waddington seemed enthusiastic about crested wheat grass, both for hay and pasture. He came to the area in 1914. L. S. Kirk, who farmed at Dorintosh, north of Meadow Lake, from about 1928 until 1946, was interested at the time of our visit in developing the irrigation possibilities of a block of 140 acres of land, which was surrounded on three sides by water. He had not yet heard the final verdict of the irrigation engineers of the Provincial Department of Agriculture. W. A. Malcolm has a section of land at Makwa. Mr. Malcolm believes that beef cattle make a pretty good anchor economically; and needless to say, the present relatively high prices of beef cattle were no discouragement to him. I met Bruce Campbell, a merchant in Meadow Lake, who is not only president of the agricultural society, but operates the old Barnes Ranch. (Please turn to page 47)

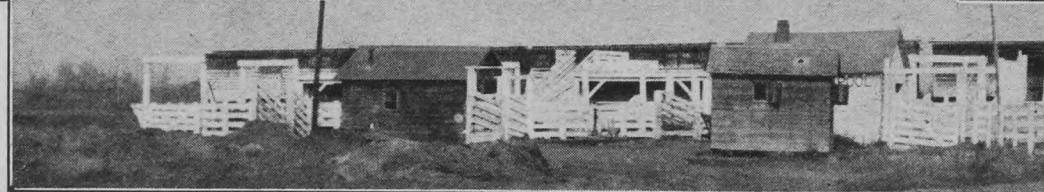


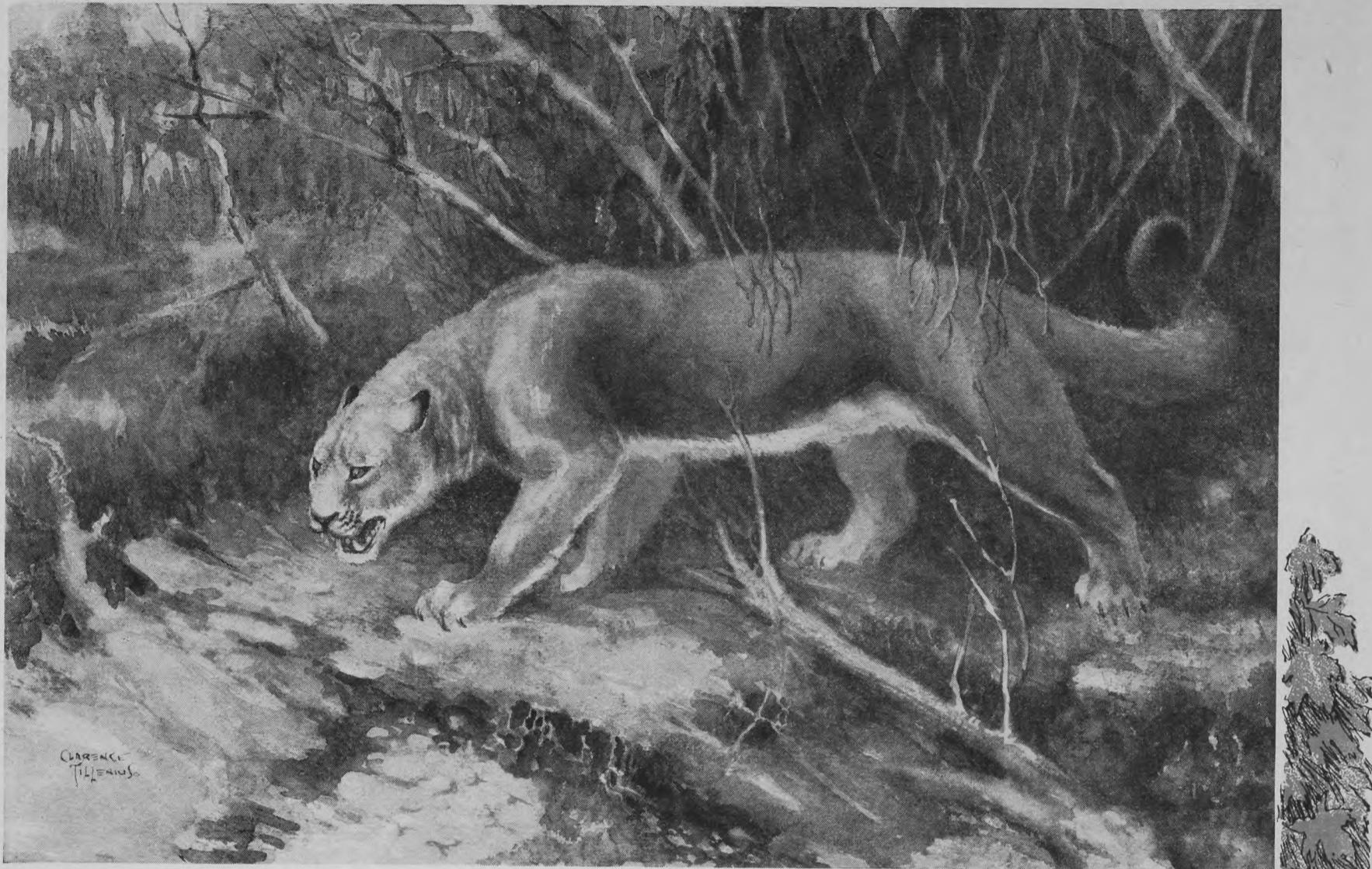
Above: Meadow Lake plant of the Sask. Co-op Creameries.  
Right: Livestock is shipped to market via Prince Albert.

*The Country Guide satisfies a long-felt wish and visits the Meadow Lake area in northwestern Saskatchewan*



Lovely stone schoolhouse at Goodsoil, built by a German immigrant settler, which is a point of much interest in the district.





*There, framed in a tangle of windfall, stood old Fire Eyes himself.*

# Swiftwater

by PAUL ANNIXTER

## PART IV

IN early May Cam and Bucky put in a small truck patch behind the new cabin. But always Cam went too deep in the woods for crops to thrive. Father and son further showed addle-pated, so far as the town went, by planting a straggling field of corn down toward the marshland, of all places. They didn't plant in orderly hills, but in stringy rows; they didn't plow deep either, merely roughed up the seed beds of grass and weed with the shovel. Swiftwater had its idea about corn.

"Why, that marsh prophy wouldn't bring five bushel to the acre!"

The spring had been rainy. The boggy edges of the new cornfield stayed soaked all month. Weeds fired up in places ahead of the corn. That stretched another smile over the countryside. The whole place looked frowsy—patches where the corn had the upper hand, spots where it seemed a plain toss-up. Townfolk couldn't let the matter rest. They drove out Sundays and had their say.

"Aye cod, nobody but Cam Calloway'd be guilty of a cornfield like that."

But Cam and Bucky kept their own counsel.

It was in May, too, that Bridie Mellott came down with scarlet fever. The Calloways were slow in hearing. Bucky thought little about it at first. Then he heard Ma talk about it. Purely worried about Bridie, she seemed. Oh, she knew a sight about diseases, Ma did; she recounted tales of

yellow jack, malaria, the bloody flux, and only God knew what that she'd seen in her youth. She'd known many a young thing cut off before prime by this same scarlet plague, she said.

One day she made up some bread risin' and sent it along with some sourdough and boneset herb to the Mellotts by Bucky. He was to ask if there was aught to be done to help.

Bucky found a big red sign tacked up on the Mellott porch to warn folk away. Jeth answered his knock, but couldn't ask him in; the house was quarantined. Bridie was sicker than anyone he'd ever seen before or since, Jeth said. Bucky went on to town thinking about the quarantine, thinking about Bridie looking scarlet. It could be Bridie was going to die, he thought, and all his being rose up to ward off this besetting evil.

For six weeks the red sign hung on the Mellotts' porch. At long last it was taken down and Bucky least of all was prepared for what came then. A slim, overgrown girl with freckles had gone into her house at the end of April, stayed with scarlet fever for six weeks, and emerged—"the prettiest girl in the whole durn country."

Big Luke Callant had said that, and Bucky found it true. She had come out like the juneberry, that is only a slim pile wand one day and the next is all

(Please turn to page 29)

*Spring brings in a season of uncertain waiting and longing for Bucky and then a man with a plan came to town*

Illustrated by  
Clarence Tillenius



**Now You can Keep  
Your Roadway and Yard  
Open All Winter**

WITH THE SENSATIONAL  
NEW Berger  
**SNO-BLO**

EASILY ATTACHED  
TO YOUR TRACTOR

Sold with Money Back  
Guarantee — if this  
plow does not work as  
we claim, your money  
will be refunded.

PATENTED  
AND PATENTS  
PENDING

Here's an amazing plow—tried and proven on more than 1,000 farms in the U.S.A. and Canada—that will actually throw snow up to 50 feet clear of the roadway, and is especially designed and manufactured within the price-range of every farmer.

The Berger Rotary "SNO-BLO", attached to any tractor with power take-off, will easily clear long stretches of road, will cut through the deepest drifts. This scientific rotary plow doesn't push away at the bank, bog down, slip or slide off the road—but literally sails through the snow and blows it clear of the roadway. Now you can drive freely during the winter—and

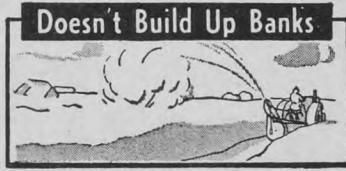
besides, "SNO-BLO" leaves no banks to fill in later and melt into slush and mud in the spring. City Park Boards, Municipalities, and Institutions are using the "SNO-BLO" with the same sensational results that farmers are enjoying.

Now, you too, can banish winter isolation, but don't wait till winter actually sets in. Plan to enjoy access to markets, school, hospital, church, pleasure, and your own farm buildings, by placing your order now! "SNO-BLO" is available for immediate delivery—with a MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE.

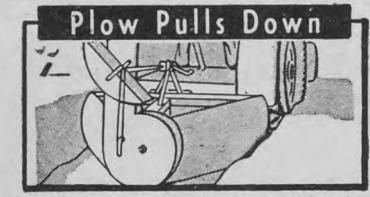
Here's why the Berger "SNO-BLO" is the best plow on the market:



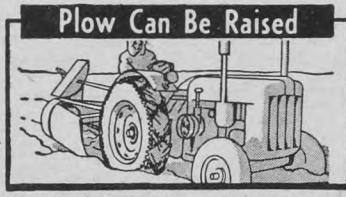
Plow designed to pull tractor driving wheels DOWN, giving positive traction not available with front-attachement plows.



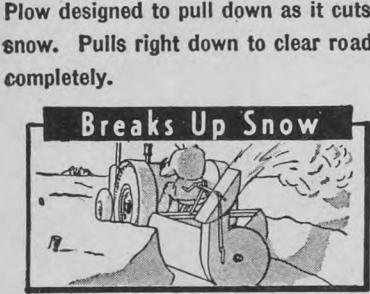
Rotary principle cuts up snow into fine powder and throws it 30 to 50 feet off road. No banks to encourage deep drifts.



Plow designed to pull down as it cuts snow. Pulls right down to clear road completely.



With hydraulically equipped tractors, plow can be raised for fast and easy transport or for backing in to take cut through a very deep drift.



Tractor going first through most snow conditions breaks up crusts enabling fast handling.



You can cut a road directly across fields to highway, avoiding extra mileage and extreme drifting over.

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Cut, for all other makes of Tractors, including hitch and cable hoist.

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SENIOR MODEL 6'6" Cut.

Recommended for use with all larger Tractors, including hitch and cable hoist.

F.O.B. Winnipeg \$445.00

Ship. Weight, 425 lbs.

Ship. Weight, 535 lbs.

Ship. Weight, 735 lbs.

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WINNIPEG CANADA

Berger "SNO-BLO" is available at all Macleod's Ltd. branches

## As Seen from Victoria

B.C. reviews its bargain with the Federal Government which doesn't look as good as it did

by CHAS. L. SHAW

BRITISH COLUMBIA is becoming increasingly dissatisfied with its financial arrangement with the federal government.

Some years ago, when Premier John Hart was in the driver's seat, he went down to Ottawa and made a deal whereby British Columbia would receive more than \$26,000,000 a year in return for the surrender of income tax and other privileges previously enjoyed by the provincial treasury.

At that time it was generally felt that the canny Mr. Hart had driven another of his typically hard bargains and that he had stolen a march on some of the other provinces that had shown reluctance to rush into a financial agreement with Ottawa for the sharing of revenues.

Well, it probably was a bargain at the time, but in the years that have followed British Columbia's costs of administration have risen sharply and concurrently the population and general standard of living have climbed sharply. Ottawa is getting far more money from British Columbia than at the time the Hart negotiations were completed—just how much is probably known only to the federal treasury department. But the British Columbia government, notably Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb, feels that the division of revenues is now out of all reasonable proportion and that there should be a new and more realistic allocation.

Mr. Anscomb feels the situation keenly because early in the new year he will be faced with the task of preparing another budget, and at this writing he cannot see any alternative to another all-time record, in excess of last year's whopping \$105,000,000.

In view of all this, British Columbia is placing high hopes on the Ottawa conference to be held in December, at which a case will be made for more generous treatment of the west coast province. Premier Byron Johnson, still suffering from the effects of an automobile spill following the provincial conference in Quebec, might be induced to agree to some sort of compromise should the federal authorities initiate a broad program of social benefits such as contributory pensions and hospital insurance, because under such a plan some of B.C.'s more onerous financial responsibilities would be relieved through federal assumption of a large proportion of the costs.

British Columbia on its own behalf has gone a long way in social legislation and it has cost money. The compulsory hospital insurance program, which was intended to be self-sustaining, will have cost the province about \$10,000,000 by the close of the present fiscal year. That amount has come out of the treasury in addition to the levies paid by the taxpayers. And this is only one heavy charge that the government at Victoria has been saddled with as a result of its determination to keep out in front in social benefits while opening up the province through railroad and highway construction.

Hospital insurance, by the way, is still a bitterly contentious issue, and it was sharply criticized when 150 hospital administrators from all sections of the province met recently in Van-

couver. A. H. J. Swencisky, president of the association, declared that the policy of the government was based on political expediency and financial considerations. The government, he claimed, was following the dangerous policy of discriminating between hospitals and between communities, and he charged the government with invasion of hospitals' autonomy.

On the other hand, the government maintains that an unlimited amount of money is not available for hospital insurance and that hospital service must therefore be tailored to what the people can afford to pay for it. The rising cost of hospital administration had been the principal cause for the insurance plan's financial position getting out of joint, arbitrary increases in hospital levies, and so on. Management of the insurance program, however, is now in more businesslike hands and it has gained more public support, but it has proven far costlier than the government had expected.

Since the Conservatives returned Mr. Anscomb as their leader at the party convention recently the political pot has been simmering, and Mr. Anscomb himself dropped the hint a few days ago that when the next provincial election is held the Conservatives may break from the coalition that has ruled the province since early in the war years. He said that if Canada were involved in war or some other national emergency there might be good grounds for continuing the alliance with the Liberals, but that if conditions remained as they are now, the Tory party might as well be prepared "for any eventuality."

If the legislature, at its next session, adopts the single transferable vote it will probably signify a breakup of coalition because, with that form of voting, according to at least some authorities, the possibility of a minority group such as the C.C.F. taking control as a result of a split between the two old-line parties would be avoided.

RETURNING for a moment to the coming conference in Ottawa, it is clear that one of the issues then to be discussed will be the need for relief to British Columbia fruit growers as a result of the severe losses suffered through last winter's extensive damage. The subject may not be dealt with as such, but settlement of the broader financial agreement will determine the amount of the relief, if any. B.C.'s Agriculture Minister Harry Bowman said that Ottawa had intimated that if there is no change in the present arrangement between province and the federal government the Dominion will consider participating in a plan to help the orchardists.

The proposal under consideration is that the two governments should join in a three-way program: To remove trees killed by the winter cold; plant new trees to replace them; and arrange long term loans to growers to tide them over until the new trees bear fruit. In any event there will be no compensation for crop losses this year, and they have been variously estimated as high as several millions of dollars.

M R. KELLER, our pet sheep, was born one bitter February day. Just how it happened that he didn't wait to arrive with the other lambs we never knew, but then Mr. Keller never did behave like a proper sheep should. His encounter with life would have been brief but for Gramps who happened to cross the windswept barnyard at that time. There he spied the forlorn waif, bleating in feeble protest at the icy blast, and trying to make his rubber legs behave. Gramps hustled him into the house and gave him a wee snort of brandy in the kitchen.

After Mr. Keller was comfortable behind the stove, Gramps, Johnny and I rounded in the errant mother. Her nostrils flared and she stamped a petulant foot as we presented her with her offspring. Even in those early hours the sheep had spunk. He made his way on uncertain legs across the pen and before we could prevent it, his mother lowered her head and sent him crashing against the opposite wall.

"Meanest mother I ever saw," Gramps complained. "Must smell the brandy on his breath. Just like an ornery female critter to hold a thing like that against a fellow." He chased the irresponsible one out the door and gathered the lamb up in his arms. "That blasted sheep reminds me of Mrs. Keller. Did I ever tell you about the time Hank Keller came home a bit merry and she let him have the crockery from the upstairs bedroom? Knocked him colder than a cucumber. That was the meanest woman I ever knew—that Mrs. Keller was!"

We named the lamb Mr. Keller to please Gramps. He agreed that the name was appropriate but grumbled at the thought of another pet lamb about the place. "Nothing in the world as aggravating as a pet lamb," he lamented as he made his way to the house where Mother echoed this sentiment. Father joined in with a threat to sell off all the sheep. "Most shiftless bunch I ever saw. Can't even raise

# Johnny Had a Little Lamb

*whose disregard of the rules was no less pronounced than the one in the nursery rhyme*

by INA BRUNS

Illustration by James Simpkins

their own lambs. Had those three pets last year that nearly drove us crazy and here another like them already!"

But Mr. Keller wasn't like the three lambs we had had the year before. He wasn't like any sheep we had ever seen before or have ever seen since. Mr. Keller was the original wolf in sheep's clothing.

WE all spoiled Mr. Keller. We had promised Mother that he would be locked in the furnace room and never would he cause her trouble as the three lambs of the previous summer had done. However, no one could resist his pleas to be allowed out of the basement and soon he was scampering up the stairs to rove happily about our large home.

Before many days had passed we began to suspect that mother sheep knew what she was doing when she so rudely rejected her offspring. No sooner had he gained leg control than he began a campaign to drive us all crazy. The kitchen was by far his favorite room. He soon learned to work the cupboard door open and to eat anything he could find from pie to cold meat. One day he ate part of my geometry book and father said pointedly that it was no doubt the first time the propositions in book two had ever been thoroughly digested. I tempted him with the algebra book too but he ate instead the detective magazines we had smuggled in from the men's bunkhouse. We never did find out if Bella Kiss was captured for sealing all his brides up in tin cans.

Johnny claimed Mr. Keller. Mr. Keller seemed to know that Johnny had the softest heart in the house so he was quick to sort his master out if he found himself in trouble. If Johnny was absent Mr. Keller would flee to his room and

take cover under the bed. Gladys was at the age when the looks of the house was most important so she and Mr. Keller were not always on the best of terms. The sheep soon learned that the parlor was forbidden territory when Gladys was around. However, he had swift legs and a way with doors and he could fly up the stairs that led to Johnny's room in no time flat. Once he wandered on down the hall into Gladys' room and nibbled daintily on a pair of party hose and a silk slip. After that he avoided Gladys even more.

As spring came on we had reason to believe that Mr. Keller's mother had had either an illicit affair with, or a bad fright from, the neighbor's goats. Mr. Keller was growing horns! In all the years we had had sheep this was the first one with horns.

Mr. Keller was quick to discover this asset. Now instead of bleating out a message for someone to open the screen door he simply lowered his head and walked right through. Mother was dismayed at this destruction. She would spend hours mending the screen only to have it suffer the same fate. Father made many wild threats against the wayward sheep but he had a short memory. I think he was somewhat captivated by the sheep's swashbuckling ways.

Mr. Keller swashbuckled every salesman that came to call. For some reason he seemed to spot an agent every time, and he would let loose with a lethal charge that would literally sweep the unsuspecting off their feet. Gramps was jubilant about this quick disposal of agents. "That sheep is earning his keep just keeping the agents away from our earnings," he would laugh. If mother had never said a firm "no" to canvassers that hounded us, Mr. Keller did. Sometimes he would even follow the victim into the car, doing battle until the end. He would then hurry into the house for a handout, after which he would creep behind the kitchen stove and snooze while his scorching wool would fill the house with withering odors.

Mr. Keller was no gentleman when it came to fighting. When he was out of sorts, as he always was if he was forced out of the house, he would take out his anger on anyone that happened along. Once he struck Gramps from behind, just as he was getting up with an arm full of wood. Gramps was past 80 but he was not too feeble to deal with Mr. K. After a few sticks of wood had been bounced off his horns, the sheep learned to respect age.

Lois was only two then and once he found he could not take his spite out on other members of the family he turned on her. When he struck her he could really give her a nasty fall and we knew that Mr. Keller's chops would soon be served in mint sauce if something was not done to correct his ways. One night about dark Johnny and I brought out a large block of concrete from the barn foundation. We carefully draped (Please turn to page 19)



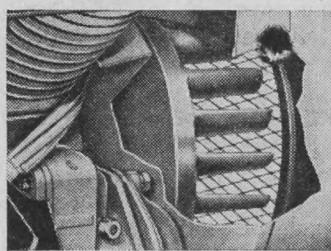
Gramps reached in with the handle of his cane and tried to drag him out.



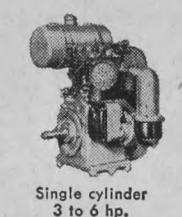
Air Cooling, as developed and perfected by Wisconsin Motor Corporation engineers, has these important advantages for the power user:

1. Greatest freedom from cooling chores and troubles. More Service FROM the engine, less service TO the engine; fewer Man-Hours lost; more H. P. Hours on the job.
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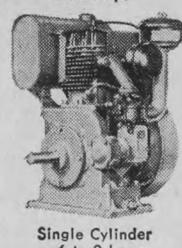
Every Wisconsin Engine from the smallest to the largest (3 to 30 hp., single cylinder, 2-cylinder and 4-cylinder) has all the advantages of dependable AIR COOLING, plus heavy-duty design and construction throughout.



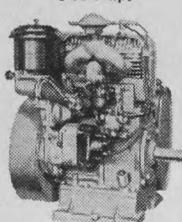
A large capacity fan, integrally cast as a part of the flywheel, creates a continuous, powerful air blast as long as the engine is running, distributing the cooling air most efficiently over cylinder walls and valve areas. For Most H.P. Hours of on-the-job service, specify Wisconsin Air-Cooled Engines for your Farm Equipment.



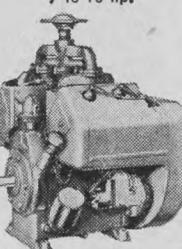
Single cylinder  
3 to 6 hp.



Single Cylinder  
6 to 9 hp.



Two Cylinder  
7 to 13 hp.



V-type 4-cylinder  
15 to 30 hp.



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## News of Agriculture



Dairy products will be promoted during the next eight months by the Dairy Farmers of Canada, in a public relations campaign financed by producers.

### National Dairy Campaign

THE Dairy Farmers of Canada have announced a national advertising campaign as the result of a successful effort to raise funds for the purpose, by a deduction of one per cent per pound of butterfat delivered by producers during the month of June.

Erle Kitchen, secretary-manager, has announced that the National Dairy Council and the Associated Milk Foundations are co-operating to make more effective the work of the Dairy Foods Service Bureau which will originate all product advertising. A wide variety of means will be used to bring to the attention of consumers the quality of dairy products as foods. Newspaper, magazine and trade paper advertising, in addition to radio, will carry the story.

A different dairy food will be featured each month, beginning with butter in December. Fluid milk will be emphasized in January, and cheese in March. Other products such as ice cream, cottage cheese and cream will be featured throughout the next few months until the campaign ends in August, 1951.

### Hall of Fame

ALBERTA'S Minister of Agriculture, Hon. D. A. Ure, recently announced the establishment, in that province, of an agricultural Hall of Fame, the purpose of which is to give appropriate recognition to worthy Albertans engaged in practical agriculture, "and who, during their lifetime, have made a notable contribution to the industry." It is announced that the main hall of the Department of Agriculture, in the legislative building at Edmonton, will be designated for this purpose, and that a tablet of appropriate design is to be erected, on which will be inscribed the names of those who, from time to time, are elected. A committee, consisting of the Minister, senior officials of the department and the president of the Alberta Federation of Agriculture, have been appointed to receive and select the names of persons deemed suitable for this honor. It is further announced that the initial list of persons already selected, consists of five individuals: Henry Wise Wood, farmer and president of the United Farmers of Alberta for many years; the late

Joseph Harvey Johnston, university farm manager and husbandman; Claude Gallinger, Edmonton, farmer, importer and livestock breeder; Frank Collicutt, Crossfield, pioneer rancher and Hereford breeder; and Charles S. Noble, Nobleford, farmer and pioneer in the development of soil conservation practices, and the designer of dry farming machinery.

### Huge Surplus Co-op

DURING the recent meeting in Washington of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, a unique proposal was made to the Council of F.A.O. by Wallace Campbell, a representative of the International Co-operative Alliance. Mr. Campbell proposed that the Food and Agriculture Organization invite the marketing and consumer co-operatives of the world to create a world surplus commodity co-operative to operate on a non-profit basis for the distribution and sale, on co-operative principles, of surplus farm commodities. He also recommended that F.A.O. recommend to the world bank that it lend funds to the proposed co-operative in order to provide capital to launch its operations.

### Manitoba Makes a Record

IT is believed by the Manitoba Department of Agriculture that the province established a record at this year's Royal Agricultural Winter Fair at Toronto, when two Manitoba swine breeders, Alex MacPhail, Brandon, and Carl Roberts, St. Adolphe, carried away the senior and grand championships for both sexes, and the grand championship for single market hogs.

Both boar championships and the grand champion single market hogs went to Alex MacPhail, while Carl Roberts secured both sow championships and the junior reserve boar championship.

### Oilseed Crops

CANADA'S oilseed crop production in 1950 has been somewhat warped by weather conditions. The production of flaxseed, which is largely centered in the provinces of Manitoba and Saskatchewan was approximately doubled over 1949, Manitoba producing 2.9 million bush-

els from an estimated 300,000 acres, and Saskatchewan 1,000,000 bushels from an estimated 177,000 acres, to make up the greater part of the Canadian crop of 4.54 million bushels. Ontario production of soybeans was also increased somewhat, but the production of rapeseed in Saskatchewan dropped from 17,000,000 to 420,000 pounds, owing to the lack of a profitable market; while in Manitoba, the late, wet spring and unseasonable fall weather, reduced both seeded acreage and yield of sunflower seeds. The result was a reduction from 60,000 to 26,000 acres and from 25.5 to 10.4 million pounds in yield.

#### **Personnel Notes**

DR. J. B. MUNRO, deputy minister of agriculture for British Columbia, who had been in ill health for some time, retired early in November. Dr. Munro had been deputy minister since January 2, 1929, and had been associated with the B.C. Department of Agriculture since 1922, with the exception of one year during which he was editor of a Vancouver farm paper.

Born at Embro, Ontario, in 1892, he was graduated from the University of Toronto in 1919 with the degree of B.S.A., secured at the Ontario Agricultural College. In 1930 he received a further degree (M.S.A.) in agronomy, botany and soils, and his Ph.D. from the University of Ottawa in 1945, in Canadian and European history.

Dr. Munro is succeeded as deputy minister by W. H. Robertson, provincial horticulturist in British Columbia since 1921, and assistant deputy minister since 1944. Mr. Robertson has been associated with the British Columbia Department of Agriculture since 1912, going to the department shortly after his degree course at the Ontario Agricultural College was completed. Born in Halifax, November 20, 1888, his early association was with fruit growing in the Annapolis Valley in Nova Scotia, and his long association with the fruit industry in British Columbia, has made him well and favorably known throughout the coast province and elsewhere in Canada.

EARLY in November, the Canada Department of Agriculture lost, through retirement, a valuable public servant in W. H. Wright, chief of the seed laboratories, Plant Products Division, Production Services. Mr. Wright is known to thousands of farmers, seed growers, and graduates of the Ontario Agricultural College, where he was a much appreciated lecturer in botany from 1912 to 1920. In the latter year he became supervising analyst in charge of seed laboratories in Calgary and Toronto, becoming chief seed analyst in 1930 and chief of the laboratory services of the division in 1937. He was representative of the Federal Department of Agriculture to the International Seed Testing Association, for a period of 20 years, during which time Canadian seed testing laboratories became recognized as among the best in the world and Canadian seed standards acceptable everywhere.

Mr. Wright is also a painter of considerable ability, and there will shortly be available, in Canada, reproductions of colored drawings of common weeds and their seed, prepared by him for the American Seed Association.

# **IMPERIAL BANK OF CANADA**

## **76th ANNUAL STATEMENT**

**Year ending 31st October, 1950**

### **ASSETS**

Deposits with and Notes of Bank of Canada	\$ 47,277,812.47
Notes of and Cheques on Other Banks	24,370,205.49
Other Cash and Deposits	12,840,015.06
Government and Municipal Securities (not exceeding market value)	210,005,027.67
Other Bonds and Stocks (not exceeding market value)	10,761,384.55
Call Loans (secured)	6,518,501.51
<b>TOTAL QUICK ASSETS</b>	<b>\$311,772,946.75</b>
Commercial and Other Loans (after provision for bad and doubtful debts)	198,947,852.00
Licibilities of Customers under Acceptances and Letters of Credit (as per contra)	8,880,262.13
Bank Premises	7,087,456.03
Other Assets	60,143.04
	<b>\$526,748,659.95</b>

### **LIABILITIES**

Deposits	\$498,336,896.49
Acceptances and Letters of Credit Outstanding	8,880,262.13
Other Liabilities	209,462.28
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES TO THE PUBLIC</b>	<b>\$507,426,620.90</b>
Dividends due Shareholders	352,693.94
Capital, Reserve and Undivided Profits	18,969,345.11
	<b>\$526,748,659.95</b>

### **PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT**

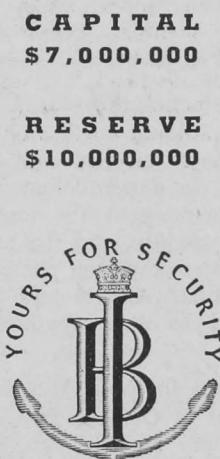
Profits for the year ended 31st October, 1950, after contributions to Staff Pension and after making appropriations to Contingency Reserves out of which full provision for bad and doubtful debts has been made	\$ 2,650,308.80
Provision for depreciation of Bank Premises, Furniture and Equipment	498,997.61
	\$ 2,151,311.19
Provision for Dominion and Provincial Taxes	993,000.00
	\$ 1,158,311.19
Dividends at the rate of \$1.20 per share	\$840,000.00
Provision for Bonus of 20c per share payable 20th December, 1950	140,000.00
	980,000.00
Balance of Profits carried forward	\$ 178,311.19
Profit and Loss Balance 31st October, 1949	1,791,033.92
Profit and Loss Balance 31st October, 1950	\$ 1,969,345.11

### **RESERVE FUND**

Balance at credit of account 31st October, 1950	\$ 10,000,000.00
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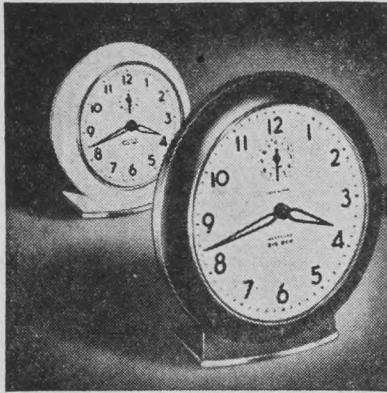
I. K. JOHNSTON,  
President.

L. S. MACKERSY,  
General Manager.



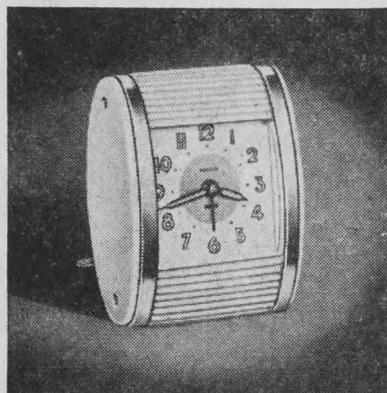
A complete Banking Service is available through our Canadian Branches and Foreign Agents throughout the world.

**Your Gift is  
Long-remembered  
when you give a  
Westclox!**

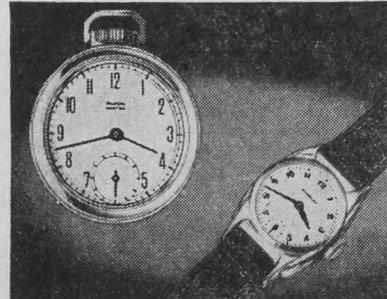


BABY BEN ALARM has a quiet tick and an alarm that adjusts to loud or soft.

**BIG BEN LOUD ALARM.** This famous clock has a "fire-alarm" call and a tick you can hear. Both priced at \$5.75. With luminous dial, a dollar more.



**TRAVALARM.** An ingenious little beauty! Shutter front closes the clock for travel. Sets up in a jiffy for home use. Luminous dial. Ivory or walnut finish. \$8.50.



**POCKET BEN** Thin, handsome, reliable, sturdy. Nickel plated case. \$3.95\*. Luminous dial a dollar more.

**WRIST BEN.** Has rich looking chrome finish case with stainless steel back. \$8.95\*. Luminous dial. \$9.95\*.

\*These prices include 15% Excise Tax.  
All prices include 8% Sales Tax.

# WESTCLOX

MADE BY THE MAKERS OF BIG BEN

Western Clock Company Limited  
Peterborough, Ontario

## Get It at a Glance

*Useful items about the farm and farming, which you might miss*

**WHEAT** producers, accustomed to seeding red spring wheat of the Red Bobs variety, should take into consideration the fact that after August 1, 1951, Red Bobs will not be eligible for a grade higher than No. 3 Northern. Advance notice of this change was given by the Board of Grain Commissioners in December, 1948.

**F**OR the first nine months of 1950, four of the United States each had cash receipts from farm marketings of more than one billion dollars. These in descending order are: Iowa (\$1.4 billion), California (\$1.3), Texas (\$1.184) and Illinois (\$1.181). The four lowest states in descending order were: Delaware (\$73 million), New Hampshire (\$42), Nevada (\$25) and Rhode Island \$15.

**S**HORT courses in agricultural engineering at the University of Saskatchewan this winter will include a course in gasoline and diesel engines, running from January 16 to February 10, a blacksmithing and welding course from February 12 to February 24, and a course in farm building from February 26 to March 2. Further information may be secured from L. C. Paul, Extension Department, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon.

**CREDIT** unions originated in Canada, when Alphonse Desjardins organized the first credit union at Levis, Quebec. The first deposit in 1900 was \$26. Today this credit union has assets of over \$5 million. There are now 2,819 chartered unions in Canada with total assets of \$282 million.

**I**N the 11-year period from 1939 to 1949 inclusive, Canadians increased their expenditures for beverages and tobacco by 265 per cent, while expenditures for food and clothing were each increased by 230 per cent. In 1949, expenditures for beverages and tobacco amounted to \$1,026,000,000, for food \$3,012,000,000, and for clothing \$1,423,000,000.

**I**N the past seven years, the state of North Dakota has planted 9,073 acres of field shelterbelts and 12,730 acres of farmstead windbreaks on 9,843 farms, thus exceeding the amount of tree planting done in South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Wyoming, or Montana.

**T**WO scholarships under the Nuffield Foundation student farmer plan, sponsored jointly in Canada by the Nuffield Foundation Canadian Committee and the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, are to be awarded from among 14 applicants this year. These will entitle one young farmer from western Canada and one from eastern Canada, to enjoy a six months' farm training and study period on farms in the United Kingdom.

**A**S of June 1 this year, the poultry industry in Canada was represented by 65,418,800 birds. Of these, 62,000,000 were domestic fowl, and included 22.9 million laying birds, 15.3 million non-laying pullets, 7.6 million cocks and cockerels, and 16,000,000 chicks. Turkeys numbered 2.5 million, geese, 369,000 and ducks 489,000.

**A**VERAGE protein content of the contract grades of the 1950 wheat crop is 13.6 per cent, according to the Grain Research Laboratory of the Board of Grain Commissioners for Canada. This figure is the same as the average for the past 20 years and is .2 points lower than for 1949. The average is based on an analysis of 4,522 samples gathered from 1,277 shipping points.

**I**N 1947 Rockwood T. E. Rocket, a Holstein bull, was exported from Manitoba to Argentina. In September of this year at the Palermo Show held at Buenos Aires, this bull won senior and grand championship honors, and had sired the junior and reserve junior champion bull, as well as the champion heifer. Highcrest Tippin Rag Apple, reserve grand champion female, was also imported from Canada.

**A**N Ontario Holstein cow, Roeland Rag Apple Lilly, is said to be the only Holstein cow in Canada, and as far as can be ascertained, the only one in the world, regardless of times milked daily, to complete three records each above 800 pounds fat, and all started at less than mature age. This cow is one of three sisters who, between them, have established four world records for butterfat production on twice-a-day milking.

**T**HE Agricultural Prices Support Act was passed in 1944, and was made use of for the first time in 1946. Between then and March 31, 1950, the net cost of the price support program under this Act, to the federal government, was \$8,128,960.62, of which \$6,106,485.82 was expended for apples, and more than \$4.5 million on behalf of the apple growers of Nova Scotia. The only other products involved in price support under this program were potatoes, dried skim milk and dried white beans.

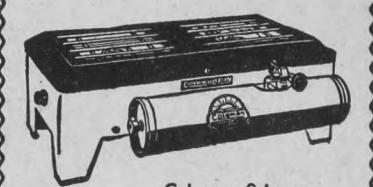
**H**ONEY production this year is estimated to amount to 30,717,000 pounds, or about ten per cent less than in 1949. Yield per colony was down about ten per cent, the number of colonies up slightly, and the number of beekeepers down ten per cent. Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta and Saskatchewan lead the other provinces in that order.

**P**ARITY prices for some U.S. farm products as of October 15 were: Wheat, \$2.27 per bushel; oats, 97.8 cents; barley, \$1.51; rye, \$1.76; flax, \$4.46; hogs, \$19.60 per 100 pounds; cattle, \$17.70; eggs, 52.5 cents per dozen; butterfat, 72.3 cents per pound; wool, 52.5 cents per pound. Support prices range from 65 to 100 per cent of parity.

**U**.S. farmers' costs are rising, too. As of October 15, prices paid by farmers reached 253 per cent of the 1910-1914 average, and stood at less than one per cent below the record high for July, 1948. Prices received by farmers were three per cent above parity, as compared with 122 per cent of parity in October, 1948.

**T**HE first credit union organized in the extreme northern part of Saskatchewan, was very recently incorporated and is located at Cumberland House. It has 90 members.

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Coleman  
FOR CHRISTMAS!**



**Coleman 2-burner  
Hot Plate**

- Quick, Clean "Band-a-Blu" Flame
- Easy to operate—portable
- Use it anywhere, indoors or out

*A model for every need*

The Coleman Lamp and Stove Co. Ltd.  
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## BRONCHIAL COUGH

Are you kept awake by a nerve-racking bronchial cough? Is phlegm so tightly packed in your bronchial tubes, no amount of coughing seems able to dislodge it? Templeton's RAZ-MAH capsules are especially made to loosen phlegm, so it comes away easily and you are relieved of coughing and wheezing. Get RAZ-MAH for quick relief. 60c, \$1.25 at druggists. R-42

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*When You See  
These  
Tracks  
Set This Trap*



**To Catch and  
Hold Muskrats**

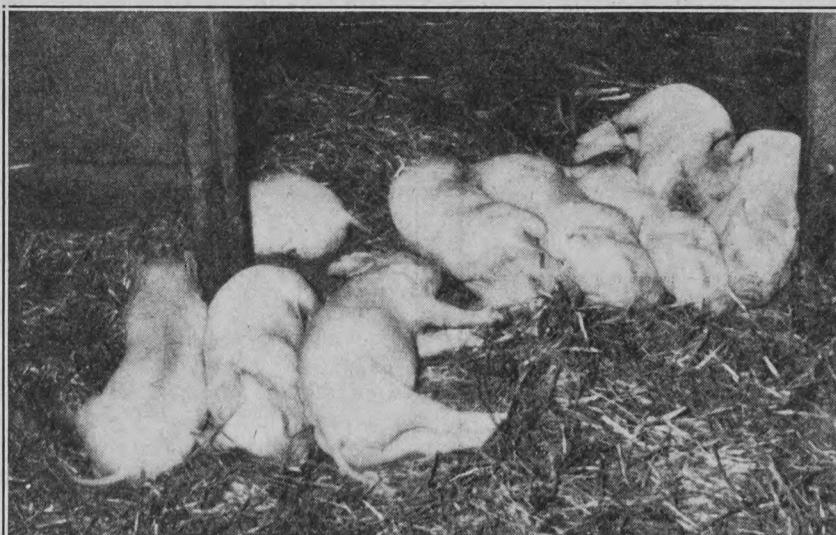
**T**HE Muskrat is easy to catch, but he's an "escape artist". Be sure you catch him for keeps. Use the Victor No. 1 VG Stop Loss... designed especially to prevent loss and escape by wring-off. Get-away attempts are foiled by its auxiliary guard which moves high-up on the rat's body... holds him in such a position that he is unable to twist free.

Victor No. 1 VG is light, simple and safe to set. This is the trap professionals pick because it pays off. Try it. You'll catch more fur with this Canadian-made trap.

**ANIMAL TRAP COMPANY OF AMERICA**  
Dept. 222, Niagara Falls, Canada

**Victor TRAPS**

## LIVESTOCK



*Alberta's hogs are grading higher this year. For the first nine months, despite increased marketings of about 20 per cent, A and B grades accounted for three per cent more of the total than in 1949.*

### Frozen Wheat Good Feed

IT is safer to use frozen wheat by weight, rather than by measure, when fed to livestock. The Experimental Station at Swift Current reports that a pound of frozen wheat weighing more than 40 pounds per bushel is equal to one pound of barley in feeding value, "and can safely replace barley in the ration of all livestock, on this basis."

Wheat with an extremely low bushel weight may not be satisfactory as the only grain given cattle on full feed. It is somewhat laxative in nature, and does not possess as high a feeding value as sound or slightly frozen wheat. Swift Current recommends that steers on full feed should not be given more than 85 per cent of the grain ration in the form of wheat. For pigs, this should be cut to 75 per cent, and in the later finishing stages, to 50 per cent, in order to prevent over-finishing.

### Wintering Calves

IT would be generally agreed that the younger an animal is, the less it can afford to lose weight and still achieve a normal development. Under some conditions, wintering calves so that they continue to make gains during the winter is not very practicable, but every effort should be made to prevent them losing weight. Even slight gain, according to the Range Experiment Station at Manyberries, Alberta, is sufficient to allow the calf to grow normally, because if it is strong and thrifty in the spring when turned out, it can make the best use of the summer pasture.

For range calves, the Station recommends a good field of grass as the cheapest roughage. They are good rustlers and will graze whenever the weather will permit. Some supplement, however, will be necessary and two pounds of oil cake per head per day are recommended to bring them through in good condition.

The Station has found that 1,000 pounds of good quality roughage will maintain a calf from early December to mid-March. Alfalfa, oat hay, blue joint, crested wheat hay, corn fodder, and mixes of these feeds have given best results. These roughages contrast with sweet clover, spring and fall rye, wheat and oat straw, slough hay and Russian thistles, which were not so satisfactory, since the calves tended to develop more digestive trouble.

Barley hay was found to be inferior to oat hay. Cereal straw must be supplemented with a protein supplement, and two pounds of linseed oil cake, plus eight to 10 pounds of wheat straw were necessary at Manyberries to maintain calves in good condition through the winter. On the other hand, where good roughage is used, as low as four pounds per day, supplemented by two pounds of linseed oil cake, will maintain calves throughout the winter.

### Price of Fluid Milk

PEOPLE in large milk consuming centers characteristically resent any increase in the price of milk delivered to their doors. Recently, in Winnipeg, consumers objected to an increase of one cent a quart in the delivered price of milk ordered by the Manitoba Milk Control Board.

Bearing on this point, the Manitoba Department of Agriculture recently issued a comparison of increases in the price of milk, oats and barley between 1942 and 1949 inclusive, as compared with the number of dairy cows, two years and over, kept mainly for milking purposes within an area of about 65 miles from Winnipeg. The base year was taken as 1942, to which year an index number of 100 was given to each factor—the prices of milk, oats and barley and the number of dairy cows.

From these published figures it is to be noted that the number of cows increased by 30 per cent by 1945 while the price of milk increased 18 per cent, the price of oats 38 per cent and the price of barley 50 per cent. From 1945 on, however, the number of cows declined, while prices continued to rise, particularly in the case of feed grains. The index figure of the price of milk rose to 155 in 1949, meaning that the price of milk had increased by 55 per cent over 1942, but the price of oats had increased to an index figure of 208, or by 108 per cent, while the barley index figure had risen to 295, for an increase in the cost of barley as a feed, of nearly 200 per cent.

The point of the Department's figures lies in the fact that while milk had increased 55 per cent in price to the consumer, dairy farmers had not found the increase sufficiently profitable to encourage any further increase in the number of cows. Rather, the number began to decrease in 1946,

*The quick, simple,  
practical way  
to treat  
mastitis*



### Penicillin "BOO-JEES"

At the first sign of mastitis, insert one "Boo-Jee" in the teat canal. This will maintain a concentration of penicillin in the quarter for at least 12 hours, when another may be inserted if necessary.

Ayerst bougies have a special base which is freely soluble in milk and does not depend on temperature to dissolve. Penicillin "Boo-Jees" are non-irritating, safe to use and will not discolor the milk. They retain their potency without refrigeration. Get them from your veterinarian or druggist now and always keep a package on hand.

10,000 Units: Vial of 12—\$2.30  
(also in 25's)

25,000 Units: Vial of 6—\$2.00  
(also in 12's and 25's)

"MYPENS" (streptomycin with penicillin) Vial of 6—\$2.00

If you prefer to use an ointment, ask for "Cillenta" Veterinary or "Mypen" Ointment.



698

"There's thousands  
like me..."



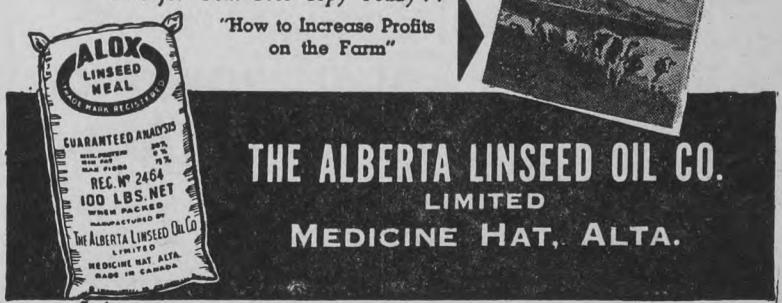
"To be sure, thousands of farmers like myself have learned the sure way to healthy, productive livestock. It's no secret... the answer is in feeding "ALOX" OILCAKE MEAL."

"ALOX" is high in oil content, plus balanced amounts of phosphorous, calcium and vegetable proteins, which help to make champions.... that bring highest prices at market time.

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NOW and see the difference.

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LIMITED  
MEDICINE HAT, ALTA.

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Having worked an Oliver Tractor you will leave that seat with reluctance. You will be comparing any tractor you drive in the future with this one tractor which gives you so much more.

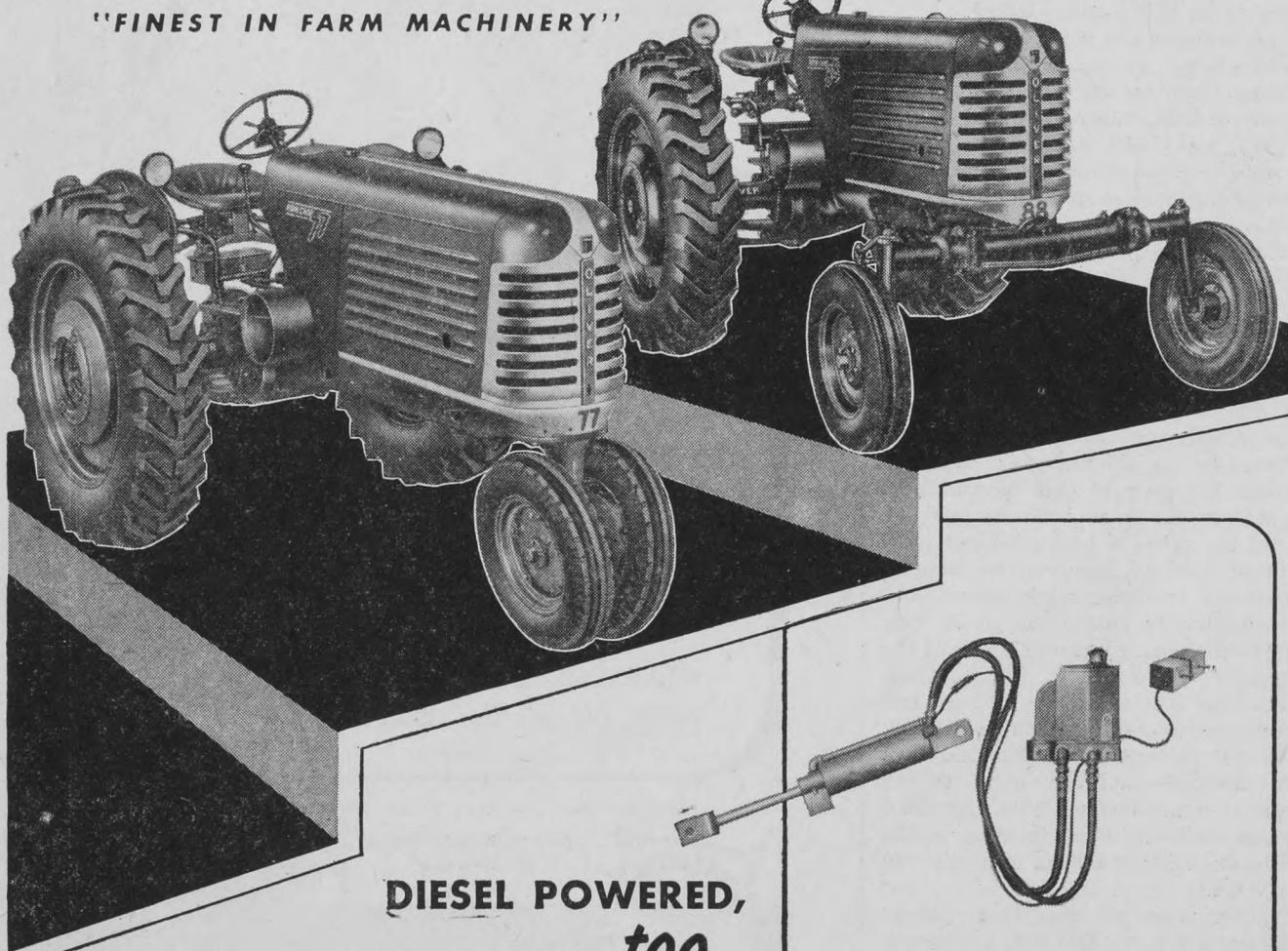
Oliver Dealers at the sign of the Oliver Shield are ready now to demonstrate the tractor of tomorrow that is here today.

**OLIVER COCKSHUTT OWNERS!** Come to us for the finest in tractor service. Your Oliver-Cockshutt tractor is Oliver built! That's why it pays to see your Oliver dealer first! You're assured expert, dependable service—plus replacements with genuine Oliver repair parts. So remember, always take your Oliver-Cockshutt tractor to the man who knows Oliver-built equipment best—your Oliver dealer!

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Winnipeg, Goodison Industries, Ltd.,  
Sarnia, Barker Equipment Company, Fredericton.

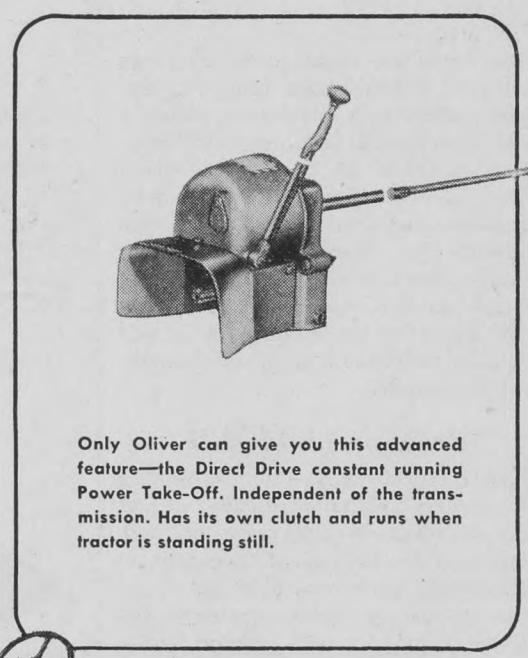
"FINEST IN FARM MACHINERY"



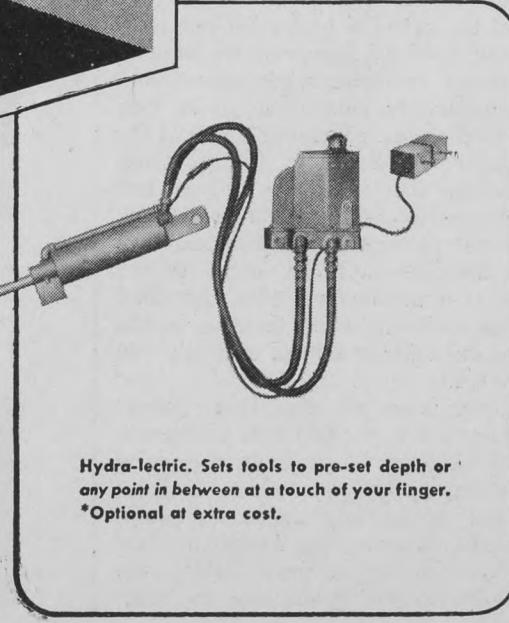
DIESEL POWERED,  
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Standard on all Oliver Wheel Tractors. The extra comfort seat with torsion springs of rubber.



Only Oliver can give you this advanced feature—the Direct Drive constant running Power Take-Off. Independent of the transmission. Has its own clutch and runs when tractor is standing still.



Hydra-lectric. Sets tools to pre-set depth or any point in between at a touch of your finger.  
\*Optional at extra cost.

and by 1949 there were only 74 cows in the area for each 100 that had been maintained in 1942, and for each 130 that had been kept in 1945.

The index figure of 100 for the number of cows represented 110,377 cows. The same figure for the price of milk represented a price of \$2.07 per 100 pounds, for oats it meant 37 cents per bushel, and for barley 46 cents a bushel.

This is but another example of the way in which farm costs have been rising at a rate more rapid than the increase in farm prices. It is true that the cost of oats and barley fed to dairy cows is by no means all of the cost of producing milk, but if farm wages were examined, a somewhat similar increase since 1942 would be found to have occurred, to say nothing of other regularly needed materials. Similarly, if the returns of other groups of people, including those secured by labor unions, have increased substantially during the intervening eight years, as indeed they have, surely the farmer is entitled to hope for such prices for his products as will enable him to achieve a more or less corresponding increase in net income. Consumers unfortunately seem more ready to accept increases in the prices of manufactured or other goods and services, than in the price of food-stuffs. These, it is true, are vitally necessary, but there is no reason to believe that the forces which play on the cost of producing them, are not just as active as on those other goods and services which are often not nearly as vital, but on which a great deal of money is expended annually by the consumers of Canada.

## Selecting Gilts

NOT enough care is taken, in many cases, in the selection of gilts to be saved for breeding purposes. Unless gilts are available from the home-bred litters which are satisfactory, it is much better to go out and buy good gilts which have the characteristics of good breeders.

The most important desirable characteristics are comparatively few. Purebred breeders will, of course, keep in mind many points, including refinements for show-ring or sale, which are not necessarily important for bacon production. Gilts should come from litters of good size, and from dams which in turn were from large litters. They should be strong-boned, which is considered to be an indication of general ruggedness and strength. Length is important for the bacon market and above all, the short, chunky type of pig should not be bred. The short, turned-up-nose pig, as a result of the prevalence of rhinitis, is now under suspicion. Indications of roughness and especially heaviness at the shoulder, are very undesirable.

Temperament is another factor. The gilt selected for breeding should have at least 12 to 14 teats, which is an indication of her ability to raise a large litter, and she should also be of gentle disposition. As far as possible, one should attempt to select breeding stock which will be able to produce carcasses of good quality on the minimum amount of feed per 100 pounds. The selection of stock with a good rating on the Advanced Registry test is, of course, the only reasonably sure way to judge on this point, as well as maturity.

# FIELD



The municipal seed-cleaning plant at Morinville, Alberta, one of four in the province assisted by the Alberta Department of Agriculture.

## Alberta Cleaning Plants

THE Province of Alberta is now served by four municipal seed-cleaning plants, located at Camrose, Westlock, Wetaskiwin and Morinville. The Camrose plant began operating in February, 1949; the Westlock plant in November, 1949, and the plants at Wetaskiwin and Morinville in January, 1950. These plants, according to F. F. Parkinson, Supervisor of Projects, Alberta Department of Agriculture, act as distributing centers for good seed, as well as cleaning plants for farmers in the area. The three new plants, which began operation in the winter of 1949-50, cleaned a total of more than 450,000 bushels of seed grain for nearly 2,000 farmers. In addition, approximately 50 carloads of seed were brought in, cleaned and distributed to farmers, who, as a result of the poor crop of 1949, were short of seed. The plants are also useful for treating seed grain for smut control. Mr. Parkinson says that the plants are equipped with up-to-date, efficient cleaning and treating equipment, and to ensure proper operation are inspected both by dominion and provincial authorities.

These four cleaning plants have been erected under a provincial policy whereby the Alberta Department of Agriculture will match the money contributed by a municipality up to a maximum of \$10,000. The plants cost about \$30,000, and generally a form of co-operative has been organized under which members contribute share capital up to about one-third of the total cost. The municipal interest in these plants, and also that of the provincial department, is primarily in weed control, coupled with the use of good seed. The policy is predicated upon the idea that the use of good seed will cut down the cost of municipal weed control, as well as the cost of such control to individual farmers. Emphasis in the plants is placed on the cleaning of seed for growers, rather than commercial cleaning.

## Smut Resistance of Grain

ALL varieties of grain are not equally resistant to the various smuts that are seed-borne, and which sometimes cause considerable lessening of yields. All the common smuts, except loose smut of wheat and bar-

ley, may be controlled by chemicals. The hot-water treatment is the only known method of controlling the two loose smuts.

Thatcher, for example, is resistant to loose smut of wheat, but is very susceptible to bunt of wheat. On the other hand, Canus, another wheat variety, not so well known, is resistant to bunt of wheat, but susceptible to loose smut. Redman and Regent, as well as Apex, three well-known wheat varieties, are semi-resistant to both bunt of wheat and loose smut.

Much the same is true of the barley varieties. Montcalm, Newal and O.A.C. 21 are semi-resistant to covered smut of barley and false loose smut, and susceptible to loose smut of barley. Varieties of barley, such as Plush, Prospect, Regal, Sanalta and Vantage, are susceptible to both types of smut. The whole question of the treatment of cereal seed has been covered in a very recent bulletin—(Farmers' Bulletin 161—June 1950), prepared in the Division of Botany and Plant Pathology, Science Service, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa—which may be obtained from there, or from any experimental farm or station, or provincial university. Get a copy of this useful, brief and illustrated publication now, so as to be prepared well in advance of seeding for proper treatment of seed grain.

## More About Frozen Flax

ON page 22 of the November issue of The Country Guide a short article appeared warning that livestock poisoning might follow the feeding of frosted flax. The warning was based on a statement issued in October by the Experimental Station at Swift Current, which in turn reflected the results of analyses of flax made by the Soil Research Laboratory at the Station. Since the article appeared, some queries have reached us as to whether the warning was intended to apply to flax seed. A query from The Country Guide to Dr. J. L. Doughty, head of the Soil Research Laboratory at Swift Current, brought some additional information, but does not clear up the matter entirely.

It appears that the analyses made at Swift Current have consisted almost entirely of determinations of the hydrocyanic (prussic) acid content of the whole plant, or threshed

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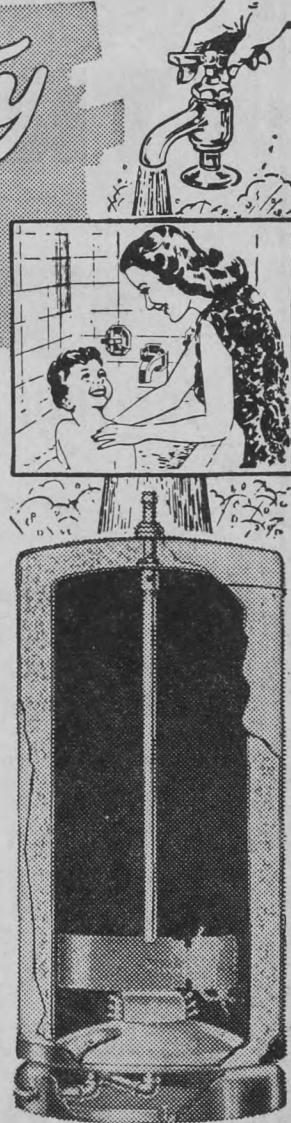
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The SAFE laxative made especially for infants and children



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If your child is fretful because of "Childhood Constipation," it's wise to give Castoria.

Made especially for infants and children, this thorough, effective laxative is so gentle, it won't upset sensitive digestive systems. Contains no harsh drugs. Will not cause griping or discomfort.

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straw. Only two samples of screenings containing flax seed had been analyzed up to the middle of November, and while very small amounts of the poisonous material were found in both samples, the amount in only one sample was considered to be in the toxic range. No relationship has been found at Swift Current between the percentage of hydrocyanic acid and the degree of frost injury. Nevertheless, it is reported that the percentage of toxic material is likely to be higher in flax that has been frozen, but tends to decrease with time, especially when the flax is left in the field.

As far as we know, no losses of livestock have occurred this fall, as a result of the eating of frozen flax. Nevertheless, Professor J. M. Brown, head of the Animal Science Department of the University of Manitoba, states that, like the sorghums, flax can cause death to livestock from prussic acid under certain conditions. His explanation is as follows:

"The prussic acid is not originally present as such, but in the form of glucosides, which are broken down by an enzyme present in the plant, yielding free prussic acid. The acid may be set free in the digestive tract of animals, and it (the free acid) may also be present in plants (particularly the young growth) which have become wilted or bruised. Both vegetative parts (stems and leaves) and seed of flax are potential sources of the poison, and it is the immature seeds which are most likely to contain toxic amounts. A frozen flax crop is, therefore, a greater potential source of danger when fed to stock than a normal mature crop, since a greater proportion of the former (vegetative parts and seeds) is likely to be immature and hence to contain more of the poison."

"Heat causes destruction of the enzyme which breaks down the glucoside with liberation of free prussic acid, but obviously heat treatment would not be a practical procedure to permit utilization on the farm, of the damaged crop."

The poisonous character of flaxseed is not, however, carried forward into the oil meal or oil cake, because in the process of manufacturing, the flax is heated to a temperature of 200 degrees, which, as Professor Brown has indicated, would bring about a destruction of the enzymes and eliminate the formation of free prussic acid.

### Harvesting Costs

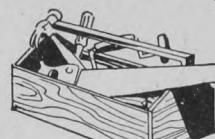
FARMERS do not need to be told that costs have been rising during the last three or four years. Nevertheless, it is interesting to note some figures from the Brandon Experimental Farm with reference to the cost of harvesting operations at the Reclamation Station at Melita, and on 11 district experiment stations.

For the four-year period 1943-46, the cost of harvesting wheat on fallow at the Reclamation Station in southwestern Manitoba was calculated at an average of \$2.25 per acre, where the swather and combine were used, and \$4.08 per acre for the binder and thresher. In 1949, six substations used binder, stoker and thresher and their average cost was \$4.91 per acre. Five stations used swather and combine and had an average cost of \$2.81 per acre.

## Building Ideas

FOR THE

**Farm**

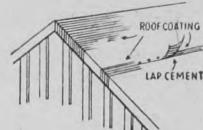


PRACTICAL HINTS  
ON MATERIALS AND METHODS

The important thing to remember about roofing, is that it costs just as much to apply a cheap, short-lived material as one that will last twice as long. Therefore, good roofing is economical in the long run. You can't go wrong by choosing Johns-Manville Asphalt Shingles or J-M Asphalt or Asbestos Roll Roofings. Manufacturers like Johns-Manville make their own felt, and use only the highest grade of asphalt for saturating and coating into which granules are imbedded for lasting colour.

### A FEW PRACTICAL ROOFING TIPS

Don't apply Roll Roofing unless the pitch is at least 4" to the foot. Don't skimp on lap cement. Be sure to drive nails as shown in the direction sheet which Johns-Manville packs in the rolls. Remember, you can add to the life of the roof by painting every few years with Johns-Manville Regal or Regalume (Aluminum) Roof Coating.



### FOR SAFETY USE A CHICKEN LADDER WHEN MAKING ROOF REPAIRS

It's easy to build a simple chicken ladder for use when inspecting your roof and making roof repairs. This will make climbing easier and safer and in addition will protect the roofing material.

**WHAT MATERIALS ARE BEST?** — Johns-Manville offers a wide choice of roofing materials for farm buildings. J-M Slatekote roofing, for example, is an economical asphalt roofing. It is available in a choice of weights, styles and colours — ideal for barns, milk houses, implement sheds, etc. If you want the best in ready roofing then you should get the facts on J-M Flexstone Roll Roofing. A heavy base felt of mineral asbestos fibres gives this roofing extra resistance to fire, weather and wear. Johns-Manville also makes a variety of Asphalt Shingles which are excellent for farm homes and other permanent buildings. Flexstone Asphalt Strip Shingles, made on an asbestos felt base, are also recommended. Johns-Manville provides a wide choice of long lasting colours.

**ROOF COATINGS** — The sun is the roof's worst enemy. It tends to dry out any type of roll roofing. An application of Johns-Manville Regalume Roof Coating, Asbestos Roof Coating or Regal (black) Roof Coating will renew the life of the roofing and add many years to its service.

**FREE!** For informative booklets on Johns-Manville Asbestos and Asphalt Roll Roofing and J-M Asphalt Shingles, see your nearest J-M dealer or write direct to Canadian Johns-Manville, Dept. 167, 199 Bay Street, Toronto. Be sure to state which roofing material you are interested in.

B-223



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MATERIALS**

## Johnny's Lamb

Continued from page 11

Lois' coat and hood on the decoy and went into the house to help Lynn oust the sheep from behind the stove. His wrath was at fever pitch when he was pushed off the porch. He spotted the form on the lawn by the wagon and lowered his head for the attack. He was quick to learn his lessons and he never bothered Lois again.

LIKE Mary's little lamb, Johnny's lamb followed us to school. One day he opened a couple of lunch bags and we had two guests home for dinner. Next day half a dozen came home with us. It was discovered later that Mr. Keller had been presented with the lunches in favor of the fried chicken mother served for dinner. The children were disappointed when Mr. Keller was not allowed to romp in the school yard again.

Mr. Keller had his lovable moments too. He would nibble gently at our hair when he was in a good mood and he loved dearly to curl up at our feet or on Johnny's bed after the evening meal was finished. He often allowed small tots to ride on his widening back. On days when mother baked bread he would be on his best behavior and he would be present when it was removed from the oven, crisp and golden. Mr. Keller loved hot bread dripping with butter. Since we had few outlets for butter that were of interest during the grim thirty's, no one objected to Mr. Keller eating his share of butter. Mr. Keller also liked scrambled eggs, pickled beets, mashed potatoes and gravy or anything else that he could chew up small enough to go down his hatch.

Then there was that day that Mr. Keller nearly ruined us socially. It was a sweltering August day and mother had baked bread. The kitchen was fairly hissing with heat when Mr. K. decided to have his afternoon snooze in his favorite spot—behind the kitchen stove! He crashed the screen door, and though the privilege had long been forbidden him, crawled behind the stove where he wedged himself firmly between stove and wall and refused to budge. Mother called John and Lynn for removal operations and Gramps came along too to direct the job. Puffing and snorting like a steam engine the sheep chose to ignore the proddings and pushings. He chewed noisily on his cud as his wool turned brown against the blistering stove. Gramps reached in with the handle of his cane and tried to hook it around the sheep's horns and drag him out that way. Mother used the broom while Lynn crept behind the sheep and tried to push him through the narrow passage. During the uproar we heard Gladys shouting down from her bedroom. I went to the stair to get the message and quickly relayed it to mother "Mrs. Findlay is coming!"

"Oh Gad! Not that." Gramps roared.

Mother grabbed brooms and mops and hid them in the closet. "For goodness sakes if she knows there is a sheep in the house everyone in the district will hear that we keep a herd of goats in the parlor by night."

By the time Mrs. Findlay waddled up the walk and forced her fat self up the porch steps, mother had

warned us to stand in front of the stove and make little noises to cover up the sound of the "steam boiler" panting out an existence behind the range. I'll get her into the parlor and close the door then you get him out while I talk to her. For goodness sakes don't make any noise if you can help it. If SHE ever finds out we may as well leave the country."

Gramps snorted. "Her and her Lords and Dukes! Bet she never had a titled father any more than that sheep did! And if she did I'll bet the sheep is a damned sight more interesting." Gramps didn't like Mrs. Findlay.

But mother was careful to have things especially nice when the great one came—not because of her admiration and affection for the woman but because Mrs. Findlay was a malicious gossip. Mother got her past the stove and into the parlor and "because of the heat from the stove" closed the door firmly. At once we resumed operations! I am afraid we were not as quiet as mother had warned us to be. Once during the operations Gramps' cane slipped off the sheep's horns and Gramps fell heavily to the floor. Gramps had a colorful vocabulary which he liked to apply at such times and he did. Marion came in from school about then and grasping the situation, tried to cover up Gramps' outburst with snatches of western songs complete with nasal yodel.

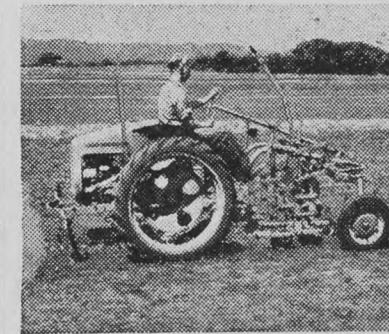
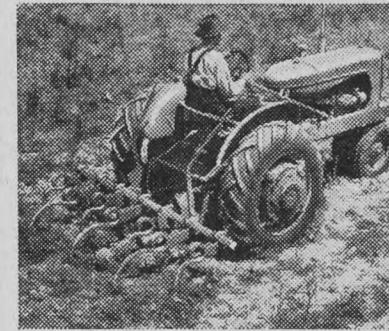
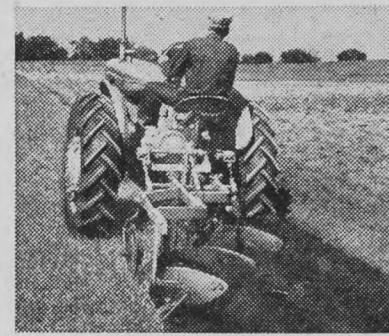
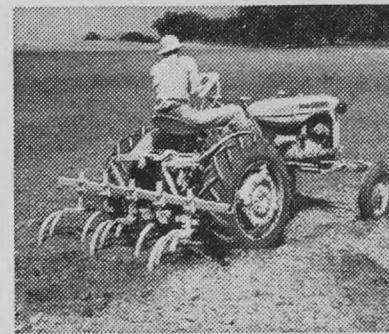
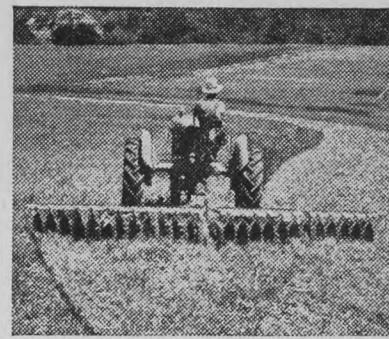
Mother could endure no more. She excused herself "to put the tea pot on," and hurried out to quiet us. She joined in our frantic attempts to dislodge the half baked sheep. But Mr. Keller had had enough. The torrid heat, coupled with all our prodding was more than he could take. With a wild plunge he cleared the passage, knocking Gramps down again, floundered a moment on the waxed linoleum, and then as if for spite, headed for the parlor door. Mrs. Findlay, hearing all the uproar, and being the nosy individual she was, opened the door at that moment and met the sheep head on.

**M**R. KELLER could not get around her hulk in the narrow door so he lowered his head and charged on. She fell face downward in his wool and for a moment she toppled him. The sheep was quick to regain his feet however, and racing through the parlor he fell, and together they rolled about on the rug. We all looked on in stricken silence while Mr. Keller recovered his footing and ripped through the front screen to balm his injured dignity by eating peas in the garden. Mrs. Findlay was saying things that sounded like Gramps!

Johnny's little lamb went to market the next day. We kids stuffed him with fresh biscuits dripping with butter and bawled bitterly in the basement as Mr. Keller was driven off in the back seat of the Model T. No martyr ever went to his doom with more nonchalance.

Mother had a long talk with Mrs. Findlay after that unhappy event. Mrs. Findlay agreed never to breathe a word about what she had seen in our parlor if mother would agree never to breathe a word about the language Mrs. Findlay had used in our parlor. So far as we knew it was one time she didn't talk. Just the same mother was relieved when we moved away the next spring.

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# HORTI-CULTURE

## Report from Cranbrook

THE 1950 season showed again, and very impressively, the value of Dr. N. E. Hansen's gift to agriculture in cold and dry areas and short seasons, when he hit on the cross of *Prunus Besseyii* (sandcherry) and the Japanese plum.

Last winter was a bad one here on this high area for tree fruits, apples and tree plums, and even Siberian pear were badly injured. Some, showing hardy for several years, were apparently in good shape at leafing out, but gradually began to die from the top, and in some cases by the end of July were completely dead or top-killed well down. Melba, among others that have been giving a good account, had to be pruned down almost to the base of all the frame limbs, and several plums were in the same fix.

Not so the hybrid bush plums. Due, I suppose, to a very heavy snow covering of three or more feet, they wintered perfectly and were loaded with fruit, but blossom time was nearly three weeks late and we were not allowed any delay to balance that at the end of the season and got some heavy frosts just around August 31-September 5, which showed up just which bush plums we should in future bank on.

Heaver, New Oka, Manor and M119 all were sufficiently ripe, in the order named, with a day or so difference in each. Usually these are in nice ripeness from August 20 on, but it was September 5 this year and they could have stood another five days if it had been safe.

Of these four, Heaver is a little larger, New Oka a little sweeter and the smallest of the four, but nicest to eat off the bush. All of them are grand in a heavy jam, although none are near enough freestone to be as easy to pit as the ladies would like.

Later came M121, Dura, Sapalta and Sapa. All were rendered almost or quite useless from frost action. The juice had sort of curdled and sweet-scent was not there.

The yield of fruit on Sapa and Dura, particularly the latter, was most wonderful. The branches of Dura carried plums as close on the branches and thick actually as grapes in the bunch. Its productivity has been an eye-opener to many who have seen it this season. M121 is green-fleshed and completely freestone, but as this is the first year it has fruited with me and was frost-spoiled, I can say nothing of its quality when properly ripened. Sapa which, when well ripened, is, I still think, the top in jam quality, gave us some good fruit down next the ground where some grass had grown and protected it.

The Dura bushes must have carried 40 to 50 pounds of fruit, if properly matured.

What we need is a bush plum as large as Heaver and as early, as freestone as M121, as prolific as Dura and as hardy and of a quality equal to or better than Sapa. This will make a nice mark for propagators to shoot at.  
—A. B. Smith, Cranbrook, B.C.



The sunflower plant in the garden of Mrs. Wm. A. Stubbs, Clyde, Alta., carried at the time, 58 blooms, plus several not yet out. Can anyone better this mark?

## Tree Seeds

GENERALLY speaking, 1950 has been a pretty good year for ornamental and fruit tree seeds. Some persons are interested in the growing of seedlings and are frequently disappointed at the failure of seeds to grow readily. To grow seedlings from fruit successfully, the fruit harvested for seed should be left until it is dead ripe. This makes the seed more easily cleaned from the pulp.

Most seeds require a rest period. Actually, this rest period seems to be a stage in the life cycle of the plant, and it normally occurs when the plant or the seed is dormant as a result of cold weather or other climatic influence.

Stratification, or after-ripening, may be secured by mixing the seed with damp sand and placing it in storage at 34° F., or in a root cellar where it will not suffer from hard freezing. If necessary, seeds may be buried outdoors, in a box of moist sand placed beneath two feet of well-drained soil. They are removed in the spring and sown as usual.

Apple and pear seeds require two or three months for stratification. The same is true of the apricot. The Nanking cherry requires three months, the native plum and the sour cherry five months, and the Korean cherry three months.

Seeds of spruce, pine and other conifers require six to eight weeks for germination after seeding, even when the seed bed has been well prepared and the area watered carefully and regularly.

If you want to produce your own tree seedlings, more complete information can be secured from the Forest Nursery Station, Indian Head, Sask., or, for fruit tree seeds, the Experimental Station at Morden, the Provincial Horticulture Station at Brooks, Alta., or the horticulture department of any provincial university.

## Vitamin C Strawberries

RESEARCH in strawberry breeding, conducted at the University of Minnesota recently, has verified the conclusion reached by previous workers, that the vitamin C content of strawberries can be increased by breeding. The Minnesota researchers have found that high vitamin C is at least partially dominant over low vitamin C. Of greater interest perhaps, is the fact that some currant plants, when self-fertilized, produce progeny that

have a higher vitamin C content than the parents themselves possess. Cross-bred plants also have produced progeny of a higher vitamin C content than the parents, and in some cases higher even than where the parents were self-fertilized. The Minnesota workers conclude that these facts indicate a recombination of favorable genes (carriers of inheritance) from a parent or both parents. The worker believes that strawberry varieties can be developed which will contain more vitamin C than any variety now available, and that this breeding project should not be very difficult.

The simple inheritance of vitamin C content is, however, only one factor. Other factors influencing vitamin C content of strawberries are sunlight, soil, fruit size, maturity and the part of the berry tested. Other workers have found that berries grown in the shade, or growing on shaded plants, contain less vitamin C than those grown in the sun. Smaller berries have a greater concentration of vitamin C than large ones, and mature, deep-red-colored berries have a higher concentration than less mature and medium-red berries. There are comparatively large differences in the vitamin C content of berries of different varieties.

Vitamin C is the anti-scurvy or anti-scorbutic vitamin. Since it is destroyed by the temperature of boiling water, and therefore not obtainable in pasteurized or ordinary cooked foods, it is responsible for the importance of fresh vegetables and fruits (tomatoes and oranges especially) and such vegetables as cabbage, lettuce, raw turnips and potatoes.

### Know Your Shrubs

by DR. R. J. HILTON,  
University of Alberta

#### Mugho Pine

WHILE larger evergreen plants, such as Colorado Spruce, Siberian Larch and Scotch Pine, will fit the large garden space of the usual prairie farm home, there is no evergreen so well adapted to general use about rural and city homes as the Mugho (mew-go) Pine (*Pinus mugo mughus*).

This pine "tree" is a botanical variety of the Swiss Mountain Pine. It seldom grows above four or five feet in height, but may spread eight or ten feet, and its location should be chosen with this habit in mind. Where an evergreen shrub is desired as a part of the foundation planting about the house, as a specimen, or for mass plantings, the Mugho Pine is a popular choice among gardeners across Canada. It has a compact, attractive habit, is tolerant of drought and shade, does equally well in a sunny location, and eventually produces attractive cones about two inches or longer. In addition, it often attracts attention as a rockery specimen, where there is adequate space for its development. And, very important, it is hardy over most of the prairies.

The Mugho Pine will stand some pruning, which should be done by pruning a branch back to a lateral growth, and only when it is necessary to correct an unbalanced or otherwise undesirable habit. Young plants are often ruined by dogs, and chemical, wire or other suitable protection should be given them.

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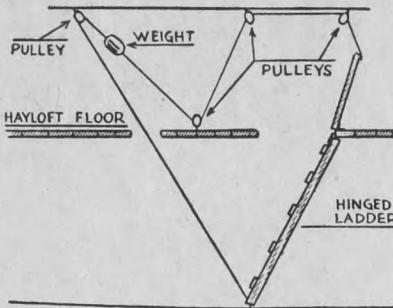
GEORGETOWN, ONT.

## Workshop in December

Ideas for convenience and time-saving on the farmstead

### Hayloft Ladder

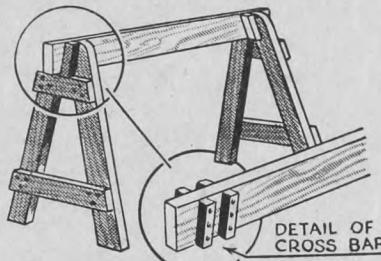
This ladder system is particularly advantageous in a small barn where the space is limited. It is hinged to the ceiling so it can be pushed up out of the way while not in use. Through the rope and system of pulleys the loft



door and ladder work together; as the ladder goes up the door closes and as the ladder comes down the door opens. The two are balanced by a weight. The slot in the loft floor should be long and narrow to avoid wear on the rope. A short length of rope hanging from the bottom rung of the ladder makes the unit more convenient.—O.A.M.

### Collapsible Sawhorse

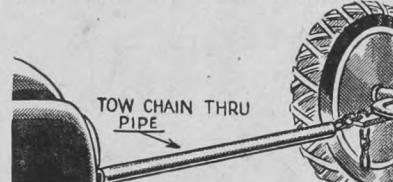
This type of saw horse has much advantage over the solid type where storage space is limited or where the horses are moved frequently. The dimensions can be designed to suit the



particular work to be done. Care should be exercised to ensure that the slots are snug-fitting. The unit should be assembled with screw nails but ordinary nails can be used if they are bent over and cleated tightly.—A.B.

### Steady Tow Chain

When pulling a car, tractor or truck, I run the tow chain or rope through a piece of pipe and make it as tight as possible. The pull is thus kept



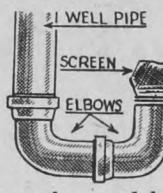
more steady and no brakes are required on the vehicle being towed. This idea saves many lunges and jerks as the machine is pulled up and down hills.—J.H.R.

### Three-Side Boot Scraper

An old skate nailed upside down to the doorstep is a familiar boot scraper. Two uprights added at either end of the skate, each with a stiff-bristled scrub brush facing inward, make a doubly efficient boot cleaner. While the skate cleans the sole of a boot, the brushes clean the sides of the welts and uppers.—M.K.

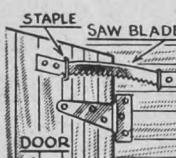
### Pump Intake

When the water in a well is low, it is advisable to make some arrangement to keep the sand out of the intake of the pump piping. One simple method is to use a "U"-shaped foot made out of two pipe elbows. The base of the pipe can then be lowered to the sand but sand will not be drawn in with the water. A screen should be tied over the open end of the pipe as an added precaution against sand and foreign matter.—E.R.



### Door Spring

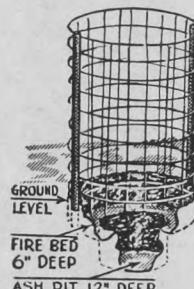
The blade of an old Swede or buck saw makes an excellent door closer for outbuilding doors. It should be installed with the door closed by fastening it solidly with large nails or screws. Place one half of the blade



over the door and the other half over the wall with a slight outward bend in the center. Make two staples of heavy wire and drill holes for the staples in the wall and the door. The staples should be placed at about 10 inches from the ends of the blade. Tie them on the inside of the building and of the door. Adjustments in the tension can be made by moving one or both of the staples.—H.R.N.

### Garden Incinerator

Farm people must be particularly cautious about fire hazards since fire fighting brigades are not usually close at hand. When burning rubbish or paper, a proper incinerator should be used. Form a cylinder from a nine-foot length of woven wire fencing. Dig a hole in the ground three feet in diameter and about six inches deep with an inner hole 24 inches in diameter and 12 inches deep. Set the coil of wire in the shallow hole and support it with two metal rods or pipes. Throw the rubbish to be burned into this incinerator; if it is light material and likely to throw sparks place a wire cover over the unit. When the burning has neared completion, remove the wire coil and fill in the hole thus covering live embers and hot ashes. There should be no danger of flare-ups of the fire after these precautions.—A.P.



### Sheet Metal Roofing

When nailing down metal roofing the best of workmen are bound to miss the sheathing boards occasionally. A loose nail does not form a water-tight bond with the metal. To rectify the situation, carry a tube of liquid solder at all times and place a liberal amount around any holes which are not leak-proof. The solder will last nearly as long as the roofing itself.—K.G.

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# POULTRY



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## Producing Quality Eggs

FACTORS that influence egg quality are breeding, feeding and management, and all can be controlled by the owner of a farm flock.

In the majority of cases the breeding is not done by the producer of market eggs, as laying stock is typically bought from commercial hatcheries. The owners of flocks who supply eggs for commercial hatcheries follow a breeding program approved by the Federal or Provincial government, and the purchaser is assured of receiving stock that will lay well if fed and housed adequately and raised with care.

Grade and quantity of eggs will be influenced by the feeding program. It is essential to have a well-balanced, good-quality, laying mash, together with scratch grain, grit, oyster shell and a supply of clean water. Quality eggs will not be produced by hens that have free range and access to manure piles and refuse heaps.

Housing is also of importance. The laying flock should be housed in well-ventilated, sanitary pens. In areas where extremes of temperature are experienced insulation is important. If community nests are used, time will be saved and there will not be as many soiled, stained, or broken eggs as when single nests are used.

Infertile eggs retain their quality longer than fertile. If the flock is not being used for breeding purposes the males should be removed.

Ideally eggs should be collected every two hours, placed in wire baskets and put in a room that is cool and free from all odors. The ideal holding temperature is 55 degrees F.

A regular routine is important for high-level egg production. A schedule of feeding and management, rigidly maintained, will reduce the danger of production declines.

## Newcastle Disease Report

NEWCASTLE disease continues to be a pressing problem facing Canadian poultry producers. A report recently received from G. L. Landon, Poultry Commissioner, British Columbia Department of Agriculture, reveals that in the province up to October 31, 341 flocks, including a total of 524,200 birds, had been slaughtered and that compensation awarded to flock owners was approximately \$750,000.

The number of flocks affected reached a peak in May in the coastal provinces. In February one flock was infected, two in March, 24 in April,

133 in May, 77 in June, 57 in July, 26 in August, 15 in September and six in the first three weeks of October.

A total of 245,960 birds from 444 flocks had been vaccinated. Meetings have been held in British Columbia and in Alberta and means of control have been discussed with representatives of the Health of Animals Division of the Federal Department of Agriculture. A meeting was held in Ottawa recently for the purpose of discussing the situation further.

## Laying Pen Efficiency

LARGE insulated laying pens with controlled ventilation have been making possible many innovations that have increased laying pen efficiency.

The labor required to care for the flock has been reduced by the use of deep litter. The job of changing the litter frequently throughout the year has been eliminated. About six inches of shavings are placed on the floor when the pullets are put in the laying pen and straw is added every two or three weeks until the litter is built up to a depth of 10 or 12 inches. If grain is fed in the litter the birds will keep it stirred up and in good condition, provided no water is spilled around the drinking fountains.

Manure pits also have proved valuable in reducing labor. They do not need to be cleaned more frequently than once or twice a year, and there is usually no objectionable odor from them. It has been found that very little trouble is experienced in training pullets to roost in orderly rows when roosts, with wire underneath them, are placed over manure pits, at right angles to the back wall.

Some poultrymen are eliminating roosts entirely. This has not met with too favorable response, as losses from smothering have occurred as a result of the birds crowding.

Certain mechanical devices have proven their worth in increasing efficiency. Automatic drinking fountains are certainly one. Mechanical feeders are being given tests at the present time and it is possible that they will prove valuable.

Reports from the Dominion Experimental Station, Fredericton, New Brunswick, indicate that deep litter, manure pits and continuous flow water fountains are giving excellent results. Many commercial producers are utilizing the advantages that they afford, and some have found that even old houses can be remodelled satisfactorily at a reasonable cost so that these advantages can be gained.

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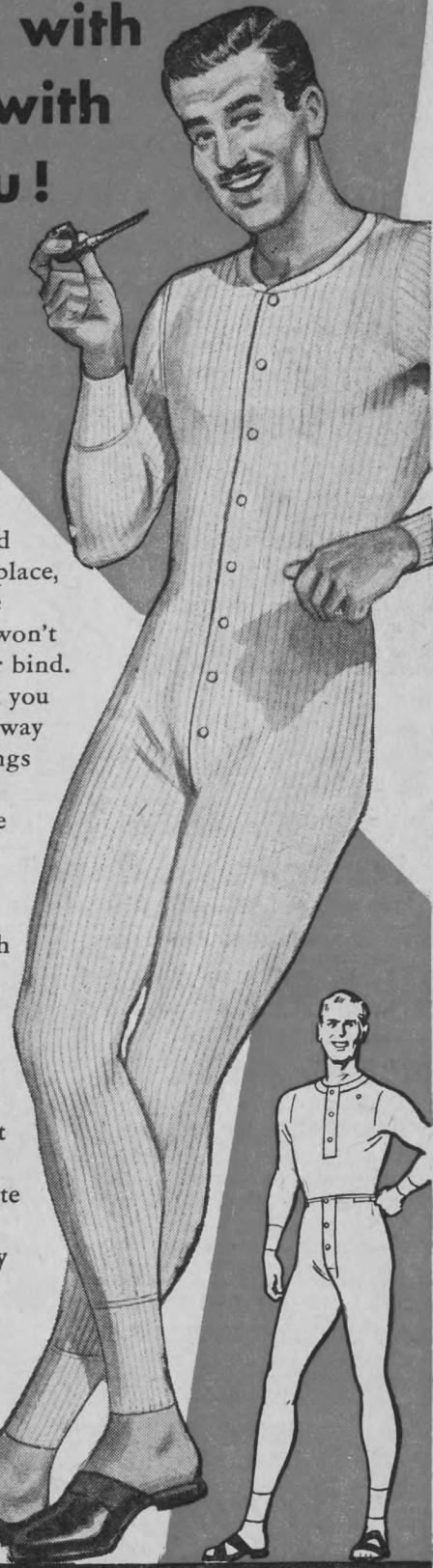
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**MONTHLY**

### Another Successful Year for United Grain Growers Limited

Delegates to the 44th annual meeting of United Grain Growers Limited, held in Calgary, November 8, 1950, were presented with a highly satisfactory statement for the fiscal year ended July 31 by President J. E. Brownlee. Earnings for the year had been good, and at its close the Company was in a strong financial position.

Profits for the year amounted to \$393,182 after provision for bond interest, taxes and depreciation. A dividend on outstanding Class "A" shares was declared at the usual rate of five per cent to an amount of \$189,834. An amount calculated at the same rate was set aside in respect to Class "B" shares, which with corresponding amounts which had been set aside for the previous three years enabled a dividend on these shares to be declared at the rate of \$1.00 per share, to the amount of \$52,925 being dividends declared on capital stock to a total of \$242,759. Profit for the year was established after charging \$550,000 to cover patronage dividend on grain receipts during the year. Although the rate and method of payment remained to be determined after the annual meeting the report stated that this amount was sufficient to provide 1½ cents per bushel in respect of wheat and ½ cent per bushel in respect of other grains.

At the end of the year the paid up capital, amounting to \$4,061,305 was supported by Reserves and Surplus to bring the shareholders' equity to \$7,473,426. Working capital amounted to \$4,366,520.

The report pointed out that crop production in the prairie provinces in 1949 had been lower than in the previous year. Grain deliveries however did not show a proportionate decrease. The year marked the end of the 5-year pool selling of wheat, and farmers realizing that the initial payment for the 1950 crop would be lower than the previous year, delivered grain from farm storage to a greater extent than would otherwise have been the case. The Company continued to enjoy a good percentage of these deliveries owing to the continued confidence and patronage of many thousands of shareholders and customers.

The report laid stress on the large expenditure on capital facilities which has been made during recent years, and the necessity for further outlays in this respect. There are many demands yet to be met in respect of increased storage space and machinery for more rapid handling of grain in country elevators. Such demands result from farm mechanization and the speed with which harvest and threshing can now be carried on. Grain comes much more rapidly into country elevators during the threshing season than used to be the case. It must frequently remain there for longer periods than formerly until the railways are able to move it forward, or until space is available in terminal elevators.

During the past year \$777,786 was spent on capital equipment, mainly directed towards enlarging and improving the country elevator system. This continued a program of capital expenditures on the physical

plant of the Company, which during the past three years amounted to \$4,578,600, including amounts expended on the terminal elevator at Port Arthur and on printing plant equipment.

#### The Company's Elevator System

The U.G.G. country elevator system as at July 31, 1950, comprised 115 elevators in Manitoba, 201 in Saskatchewan and 301 in Alberta and British Columbia, a total of 617. In connection with country elevators there are 109 permanent and 346 temporary annexes, 361 coal sheds, 299 flour houses, and 4 sheds for miscellaneous purposes. In addition there are 362 cottages to provide housing accommodation for elevator agents.

Grain delivered at country elevators flows to market through the Company's terminal elevators at Port Arthur, Ontario, and at Vancouver, B.C. The terminal elevator at Port Arthur, which has a capacity of 5,500,000 bushels, is owned by the Company, while that at Vancouver, with a capacity of 2,600,000 bushels, is leased from the Dominion Harbors Board. The report stated that the year's operations continued to reflect, as during the previous year, satisfactory results of expansion in the country elevator system, mainly in Saskatchewan, which took place in 1948. Increase that year of more than 100 in the number of country elevators provided a greater flow of grain through the terminal elevators at the Lakehead and at Vancouver, tending toward greater efficiency and economy in operation.

#### Subsidiary Companies

Each of the five wholly owned subsidiary companies active during the year had satisfactory results and contributed to the consolidated earnings. These included United Grain Growers Terminals Limited through which the terminal elevators at Port Arthur and Vancouver are operated; The Grain Growers Export Company Limited; United Grain Growers Securities Company Limited, through which an insurance agency business is conducted; The Country Guide Limited which publishes this farm magazine; and The Public Press Limited which owns the building and plant where the "Guide" is printed. Another subsidiary company, United Livestock Growers Limited, has not been active for a number of years. The charter, however, has been maintained.

Each of these subsidiary companies is conducted by the same board of directors and management as the parent company.

#### Farm Supplies Department

Volume of binder twine sales had been decreasing during recent years with the spread of combine threshing. Weather conditions at harvest time however had resulted in an increased call for U.G.G. binder twine in 1950, as many farmers had reverted to the use of binders. This department distributes "Weedar" and "Weedone," 2,4-D preparations for chemical control of weeds manufactured by the American Chemical Paint Company. The coal business is growing, amount-

# COMMENTARY

ing to some 3,000 carloads annually. The Company's "Money-Maker" brand of prepared livestock feeds, manufactured at Edmonton, continues to give satisfaction to users.

## *Increase in Authorized Capital*

A resolution was passed for an increase in the Company's authorized capital from the former amount of \$5,000,000 to \$7,500,000 in accordance with amendment to the Company's Charter enacted by Parliament at its first session in 1950. Approximately \$1,000,000 in new shares had been issued during the past three years. On account of the division of the Company's capital between Class "A" and Class "B" shares an increase in authorized capital was necessary if more Class "A" shares were to be issued. The increase in paid up capital had been of double benefit; on the one hand it strengthened the Company's financial resources and on the other it provided a greater bond between the Company and its member customers.

## *Approval of Directors' Stand Re Wheat Payments*

Resolutions were passed approving the stand taken by the Board of Directors in asking that the initial payment this year on all grades of wheat be increased by not less than 15 cents per bushel and in asking that in the forthcoming settlement of the five-year pool of wheat sales the amount now in the hands of the Wheat Board be supplemented by a contribution from the government, in recognition of the extent to which income of wheat farmers had been restricted by government policy.

The Board's action was also approved in defending the Crow's Nest Pass grain rates by appearance before the Royal Commission on Transportation. Two resolutions relating to livestock were passed, the first requesting the removal of the present embargo on shipments of live hogs to the United States; the second expressing opposition to increases proposed by the railways in freight rates on livestock. Approval was expressed of the manner in which patronage dividends had been paid during the past three years, by issue of shares and by certificates of indebtedness payable within six years of time of issue.

The meeting heard addresses from Mr. W. C. McNamara, Assistant Chief Commissioner of The Canadian Wheat Board, and from Mr. D. G. McKenzie, Chairman of the Board of Grain Commissioners. Mr. McKenzie was at one time first vice-president of United Grain Growers Limited.

## *Directors and Officers*

Four retiring directors were re-elected by acclamation for a three-year term; J. I. Stevens of Morinville, Alta.; S. Loptson of Bredenbury, Sask.; J. Harvey Lane of Fillmore, Sask., and J. D. MacFarlane of Aylsham, Sask. H. E. Staples of Benito, Man., was also re-elected by acclamation, for a term of one year. He had previously been appointed to the Board in succession to the late Mr. E. E. Bayne, whose death took place in March, 1950.

At a subsequent meeting of the Board of Directors, J. E. Brownlee,

K.C., was re-elected president, R. C. Brown of Winnipeg, first vice-president, and J. Harvey Lane, second vice-president. The executive committee is constituted of these three together with J. J. MacLellan of Purple Springs, Alta., and R. Shannon of Saskatoon, Sask. Other members of the Board of Directors elected at previous meetings include S. S. Sears of Nanton, Alta.; H. W. Allen of Hualien, Alta., and R. M. Wilson of Gladstone, Man.

## *Increase in Farm Production Costs*

The problem of ever-increasing costs of agricultural production was dealt with in the report of the Directors presented to the Annual Meeting of United Grain Growers Limited in the following words:

"Farm production costs have become very high. At present levels they can be sustained only by good yields and by prices higher than formerly seemed adequate. Financial difficulties already being experienced this year by many western farmers give ample warning of the serious inroads which present costs would make on farm reserves in a year of generally poor crops. The danger grows as general wage rates throughout Canada and other cost factors continue to increase at a time when recessions have occurred in prices of farm products and further recessions are feared. Disparity between farmers' costs and the prices they receive already exists and seems likely to increase."

"It is easier to state the problem than to suggest the solution. Over-all price controls are sometimes advocated, but with little prospect that they would be generally acceptable throughout the country except under conditions of the gravest emergency. Such temporary advantage as may lie in a low exchange rate for the Canadian dollar may be difficult to retain, as has already been proved by experience. A guarantee of remunerative prices for agricultural products may sound attractive, and such a plan has appeared to work well both in Great Britain and in the United States. But it must be admitted that any corresponding plan in Canada would be in danger of collapse as soon as it imposed any great strain upon the National Treasury. The extent to which the Government of Canada should be asked to go in establishing a level of floor prices is one of the vexed questions now confronting farm organizations.

"Agriculture may be forced to take another course of action, a defensive attitude on questions of wages and hours of labor and other factors entering into the costs of production, to insist that action be taken by governments to relate the interests of agriculture to demands for still higher wages and still shorter working hours, as well as rising costs of raw materials. Agricultural organizations have so far been reluctant to take any such step. The simple fact remains, however, that costs of production cannot continue to rise at a time when prices of farm products are declining and markets are becoming more restricted without sooner or later bringing about a crisis in Canadian agriculture which would react upon the economy of all Canada. If farmers' costs are driven too high the only alternative to intolerably high food prices would be subsidies from the National Treasury."

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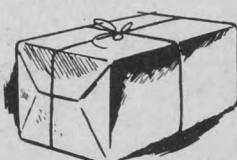
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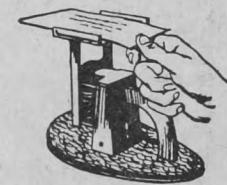


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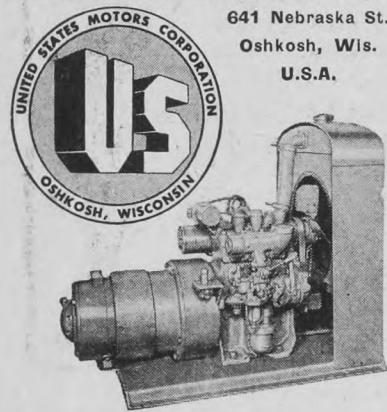
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## Weed Control Conference

*Fourth Western Weed Control Conference hears experts report on chemical weed killers*

FARMERS would be the first to admit that a great deal of water has gone under the agricultural bridge since 1944. The impact of farm mechanization is generally recognized, but even yet its full significance is scarcely appreciated. The problem of prices and marketing is always with us, but since 1944 it has been complicated by entirely new circumstances. Most spectacular in some ways, has been the intrusion of chemistry into the field of agriculture, on a scale which has involved the development of very large industrial enterprises and held out promises, not always realized, of great benefit to the industry. It is perhaps worth remembering in this connection, that not more than a century ago, scientific interest in farming was largely a monopoly of the chemist. It was only later that the biologist became directly interested, and much later that the possibilities of science in agriculture loomed large enough to compel the special co-operation between the sciences which best suits the vital need of society for an adequate food supply.

When the first commercial product of 2,4-D was made available in 1944, its use and development seemed fairly simple, reported Dr. T. K. Pavlychenko, Saskatoon, director of research for one of the larger chemical companies. A comparatively few basic chemicals were known to have the power of accelerating and distorting the growth of certain plants to the point of seriously injuring or killing them, while exerting no effect on other kinds of plants. The commercial production of weed chemicals, however, was made very costly by the fact that the basic herbicides or weed killers were practically insoluble in common solvents, such as water. Resort was then had to some of their mineral or organic derivatives, such as the salts and esters, which were more readily soluble in water. This practical solution, however, led to the development of a very large number, instead of a relatively few, 2,4-D forms; and the problem of the farmer, the research worker and the chemical industry has been enormously increased by the fact that these numerous new forms of 2,4-D affect different weeds and different crops in different ways as a result of different combinations of such different factors as moisture, temperature, stage of plant growth, rapidity of growth, and many others.

As a result of this increasingly complex field, it is probable that in six years' time research work in the chemical weed control has become more thoroughly organized on a regional basis than most other fields of scientific inquiry relating to agriculture. Last month, for example, the fourth Western Canada Weed Control Conference was held, at which about 200 representatives of departments of agriculture, universities, experimental stations and commercial companies distributing weed chemicals and spraying and dusting equipment, met to review what new information had emerged since the conference met a year ago in Edmonton.

Up to October 31, this year, a total of 212 herbicidal products had

been registered in Canada during 1950. Of these 151 were 2,4-D products, and an additional ten were combinations of 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T. In addition there were eight pure 2,4,5-T products and an additional 43 others grouped in 14 classifications. The principal forms of 2,4-D are the amines and the esters, and of the registered 2,4-D products, 74 were esters and 61 were amines, while in addition to these, there were 15 sodium salts and one ammonium salt. By comparison, the total number of all herbicides registered in Canada in 1947, was 91, which increased to 138 in 1948 and 191 in 1949.

Related to this rapid development in the number of commercial products, was a statement presented to the Conference by H. E. Wood, of the Manitoba Weed Commission, that the treated acreage of grain crops in the prairie provinces had risen from about 500,000 acres in 1947 to 13.5 million acres in 1950. This year 85 per cent of the treated acreage was sprayed and 15 per cent dusted. By provinces, the estimate was 2,904,000 acres in Alberta, 8,640,000 in Saskatchewan, and 2,022,000 acres in Manitoba. In the total are 135,000 acres treated by airplane. It is also estimated that nearly 90 per cent of all the chemical used was the ester form of 2,4-D.

THIS large development has meant the expenditure of large sums of money by farmers, amounting, since 1947, to an estimated \$33,000,000 invested in chemicals and machines. An estimate of \$130,000,000 increase in revenue as a result of chemical weed control was also given, which would imply a return of about \$4 for each dollar expended.

This substantial benefit has, however, brought to the farmer additional problems and responsibilities. Applied at the wrong time 2,4-D or chemicals of this type may decrease, rather than increase, the yield of crop. Full dependence on chemical control of weeds, without the continuation of careful husbandry and adequate tillage, may leave the farm worse off than if tillage alone is used. The use of 2,4-D is not a complete answer to the weed problem. Mere figures are not necessarily significant, but it is worth noting at least, that in one large terminal elevator at Port Arthur the average dockage on wheat for the crop year 1949-50 was 3.3 per cent, which compares with 2.8 per cent in 1948-49, and 2.6 per cent in 1947-48. These figures do not, of course, take into account the differences between growing seasons or that the figures do not represent a true cross-section of the entire wheat crop of the prairie provinces. They do, however, lend some color to the fact that some farmers are beginning to reassess the value of 2,4-D in the light of their own experiences.

Some are questioning the advisability of spraying for Russian thistle in the dry areas, and others feel that in their particular districts, spraying this year, when moisture was plentiful, and the killing of weeds served to make the crop grow more vigorously, had the effect of delaying maturity for a few days, during which time, unfortunately, frost hit the crop

and reduced its market value very substantially.

THE results of experiments too numerous to mention here, were presented to the Conference which bear on the effect of chemicals on different cereal crops and on the effect of 2,4-D on the weeds. These reports included valuable evidence as to the value of 2,4-D for the control of serious weeds, when used in combination with tillage methods and a four to six-year crop rotation. It appears that in many parts of western Canada, farmers must choose between wild oats in gradually increasing proportions, or a longer rotation system. The Lacombe Station, for example, found after 38 years of a wheat, fallow rotation, that the top six inches of the soil contained 70.7 bushels per acre of wild oats seed. The Brandon Farm, on the other hand, found that a six-year rotation of fallow, wheat, hay, hay and breaking, wheat and oats, showed no wild oats in either wheat crop, and only a trace in the oats crop of the sixth year. Also at Brandon, is a fallow, wheat, wheat, oats rotation, which showed six per cent of wild oats in the oats crop. This was despite the fact that the fields were rodweeded once and harrowed three times before the crop was two inches high, and that over one-half of the wild oats shattered before harvest, whereas the field in the other rotation required no additional tillage to control the wild oats.

In practice, however, farmers in straight grain growing areas find these longer rotations undesirable, if not impracticable. Instead, they seem to be turning to a straight wheat, fallow rotation, because of the increased yield noticeable following a fallow year. Along with it, they get an increase in wild oats infestation, and no chemical is yet available for the control of this weed.

THE Conference approved three reports of special committees appointed to consolidate the results of experimentation and research. One committee reviewed the classification of weeds, including annuals, winter annuals, herbaceous perennials, and woody perennials. In each group there is an appreciable number of weeds that are readily killed by low dosages of chemicals, if applied at an early stage of growth, another group which requires higher dosages of chemical and still a third which is resistant to the chemical, but may in some cases be controlled in growing crops.

This wide range in the response of both weeds and crops to the application of chemicals, placed a very heavy responsibility on the second committee, whose duty it was to recommend rates of application. Since the amount of acid to use depends not only upon the crop and the weed, but upon the stage of weed growth, the stage of crop growth and the nature of the growing conditions, it becomes more than ever important that farmers should study all of the recommendations thoroughly. These, as revised by the Regina Conference, will be available shortly and, as soon as available, can be obtained from agricultural representatives, experimental stations, departments of agriculture, universities, and probably from any one of the commercial companies handling chemical weed spraying materials or equipment.

# FARM YOUNG PEOPLE



These four Alberta girls beat the nation. Left to right: Helen Wagner and Betty Brown of the Nanton Food Club, and Opal Keller and Norma Stephenson of the Cayley Clothing Club.

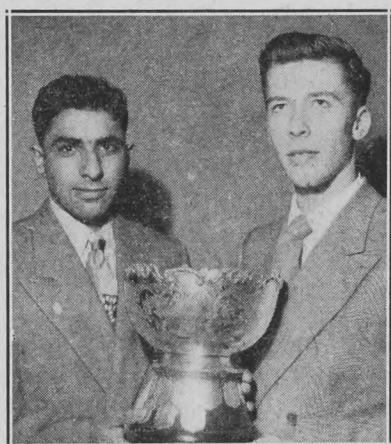
## Competition at National Club Week

Western juniors brought back five firsts and four seconds in nine competitions

THERE has been a yearly average of almost 60 members travelling to the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto for the last 20 years. The total number of junior club members participating during this period was 1,190. One hundred and sixteen members participated this year.

The larger number this year is in keeping with an increased interest and membership in junior clubs. Enrollment in all types of club work this year amounted to 54,081, compared with 50,241 in 1949 and 30,282 in 1930.

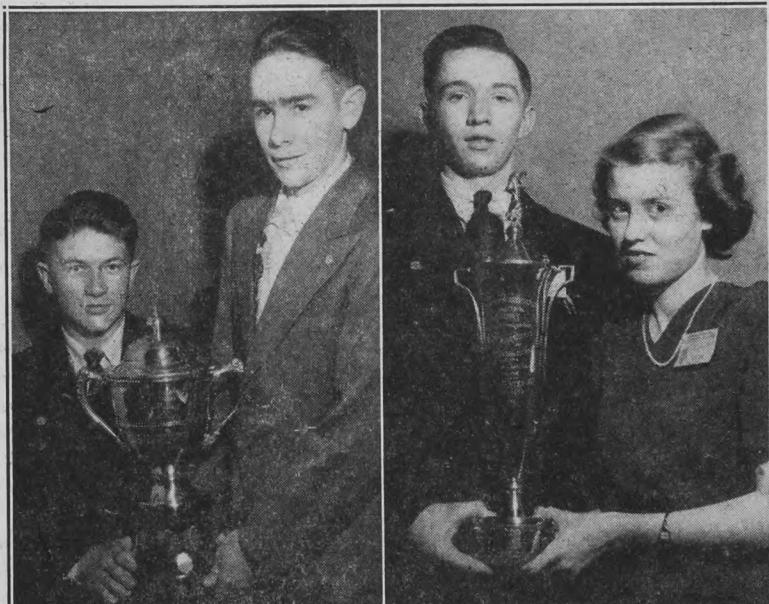
In the national competitions Ontario won more firsts than any of the other provinces. Teams from Ontario won first place in the judging of dairy cattle, swine, and grain. Quebec won the garden competition. A prairie team was runner-up in all of these competitions.



Sargit Singh and Robert Bose won for the Surrey Potato Club in B.C.

Western teams took first place in all of the remaining competitions. Donald Dyck and Algar Thiessen, representing the Borden Beef Calf Club, were first in the beef judging competition. In the food competition Betty Brown and Helen Wagner from Alberta won for the Nanton Food Club, while Opal Keller and Norma Stephenson, also from Alberta, won their competition for the Cayley Clothing Club.

Manitoba and British Columbia each had a win. The Manitoba team came from the Binscarth Poultry Club. The successful members were Millen Johnston and Mary Matheson. Robert Bose and Sargit Singh, from the Surrey Potato Club, brought home a first for British Columbia. The western provinces won five firsts and four seconds in nine competitions.



Saskatchewan's beef judging team of Donald Dyck and Algar Thiessen was successful, as was the Manitoba poultry judging team of Millen Johnston and Mary Matheson.

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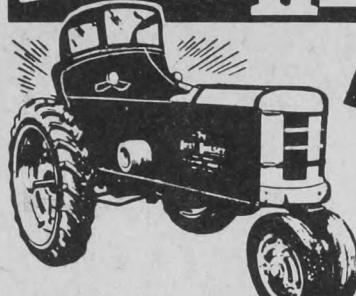
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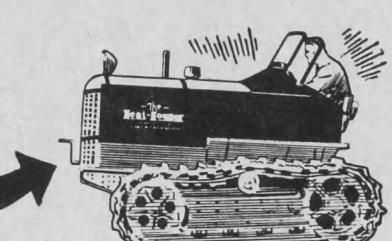
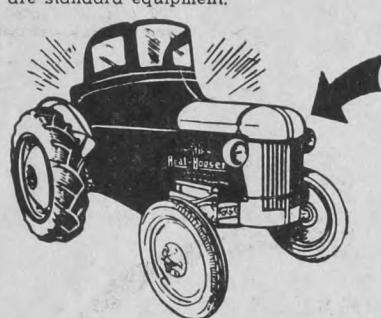
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## The Eastern Slopes

Continued from page 7

Weather stations in and near the Eastern Slopes area have undertaken a useful service in measuring the risk of fire. By the use of hygrometers and anemometers they can make a fairly accurate estimate of the likelihood of fires starting and the rate at which they are likely to spread. If the Board ever had to exercise its right to close the area to all visitors it would probably be on the receipt of alarming confirmation from the weathermen that the forest was as dry as tinder.

able timber in a country as southern Alberta is supposed to be.

If the inquirer expects results in a short time he is doomed to disappointment. In speaking of forest conservation one throws away the calendar and reckons time in quarter centuries.

There is one stand of timber within the area now 275 years old. It is highly valuable saw log stuff and would have been cut long ago if it had been accessible. Roads will make it so. It ought to be cut because it has reached a stage where further growth is slow. Economic land use requires that it should come down to make room for quicker growing young trees. There

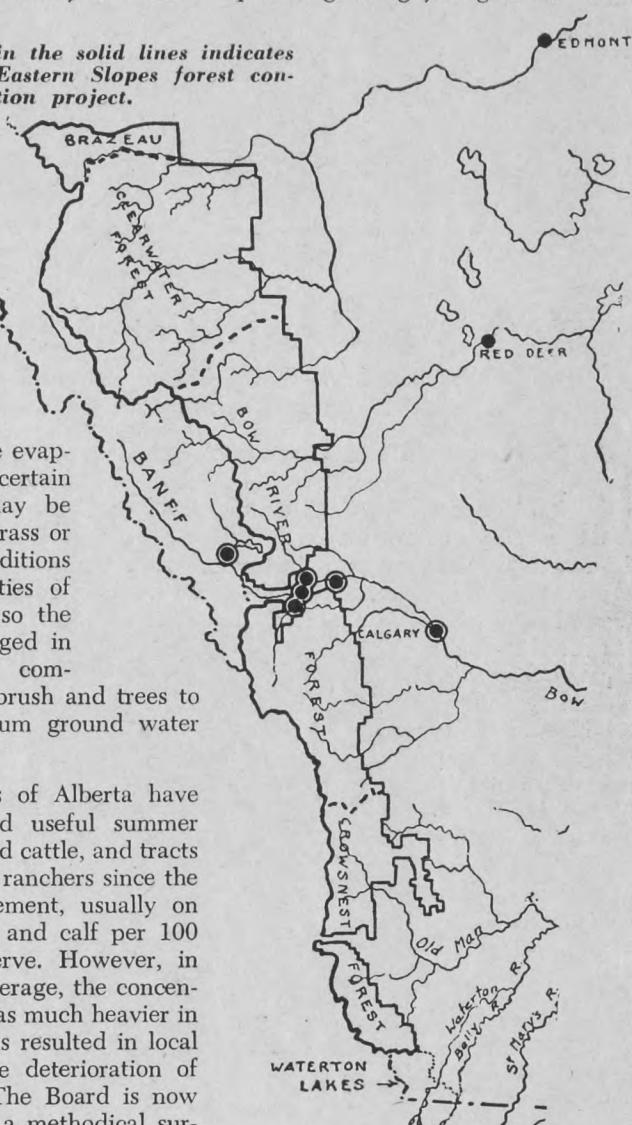
*The area enclosed in the solid lines indicates the extent of the Eastern Slopes forest conservation project.*

Next to encouraging the present stand of timber, the Board has undertaken studies as to better cover for land not now treed. Trees may not be the answer everywhere. It is just conceivable that the evaporation loss from certain species of trees may be greater than from grass or brush under the conditions prevailing in localities of light rainfall. And so the Board is now engaged in studying the best combinations of grass, brush and trees to provide the maximum ground water conservation.

THE forest areas of Alberta have always provided useful summer grazing for sheep and cattle, and tracts have been leased to ranchers since the early days of settlement, usually on a basis of one cow and calf per 100 acres of forest reserve. However, in spite of this high average, the concentration of grazing was much heavier in some places and this resulted in local overgrazing and the deterioration of watershed-values. The Board is now engaged in making a methodical survey to arrive at a proper carrying capacity consistent with its over-all conservation objectives. By improving the distribution of cattle within the area it will not be necessary to reduce materially the total number of cattle which can be permitted to graze in the forest reserve.

At a later stage in development it may be considered necessary to build impounding dams to hold back stream flow till the commencement of hot weather. This type of construction will run into money. At the present time the operations of the Board are financed by an annual appropriation of \$300,000 contributed jointly by the two governments, of which Alberta's share is \$125,000, plus any portion of the surface revenues which may exceed that amount up to \$300,000. The Ottawa government pays the difference between the actual cost and \$125,000, or the surface revenues, whichever of these two latter items is greater. Capital costs, such as the dams aforementioned are paid out of a fund of \$6,300,000 provided by the federal treasury for the first six years of the contract.

Some people may wonder if all this expense will ever produce merchant-



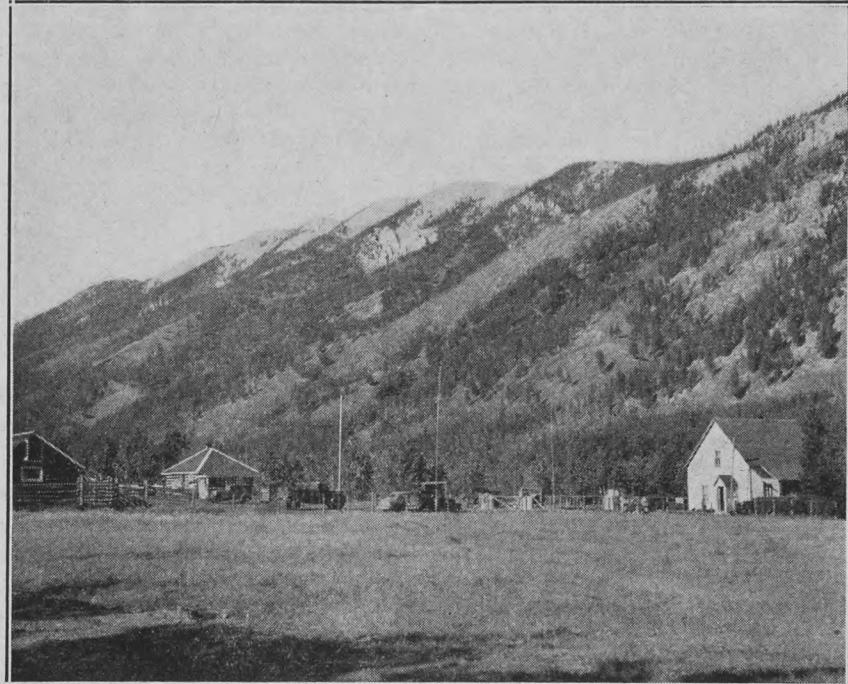
is no reason to doubt that if the administrators of the Eastern Slopes are as successful as they hope to be in controlling fire and insect damage, a large portion of the domain in their charge will in time be profitably logged with benefit and not detriment to watershed values.

The Eastern Slopes started with a Board which certainly does not lack in ability. Its chairman is Major-General Howard Kennedy, one of Canada's ablest forest engineers, whose 1947 report to the Ontario government on forest conservation in that province is one of the finest things of its kind ever sent to a Canadian printer. A civilian before the war, General Kennedy commanded one of Canada's first engineer companies to go overseas in 1939. He became General McNaughton's chief engineer and eventually Canada's wartime Quartermaster General. Since accepting the post in Alberta, he has been named consultant on forestry projects in the Near East by FAO. Fortunately this assignment will not take him permanently away from the Alberta conservation project.

Another member of the Board is J. M. Wardle, director of Special

Projects in Ottawa's department of mines and resources. Like the Board chairman, he is an engineer, with a long experience in big-scale developments. If and when the Trans-Canada highway ceases to be a blue print, and becomes a traffic artery, the name of J. M. Wardle will be better known to Canadians. The Alberta appointee on the Board is the well-known Alberta lawyer and magistrate, H. G. Jensen.

SOME apprehension has been expressed to this writer by farmers that the whole Eastern Slopes development is a prelude to the quick exploitation of the resources in the area by enterprising operators. Those fears have arisen from the lamentable record in other places.



A typical ranger station at Livingston Gap, 40 miles west of Claresholm.

## Swiftwater

Continued from page 9

blossoms, and lovelier than anything else in the woods. The freckles that had dotted Bridie's cheeks like a dusting of nutmeg were gone; her skin had turned clear and pale as the white tulip laurel. Seemed you could see right down into it an inch or more—the kind of skin that went with flaming sorrel hair. That hair had deepened till it glowed like the bonfires of fall. Her eyes were blue as wild asters against the whiteness of her skin.

Bucky met her on the road to town on a day in early June. She wore a fluffy summer dress. He wanted to stop and talk, or maybe walk a piece with her. Words formed, but he couldn't let them out. He just mumbled "H'lo," and strode past with quickening pace, as if something almighty important were driving him. The bright, quick look she gave him and the tilt of her gleaming head as she passed transfixed him with joy.

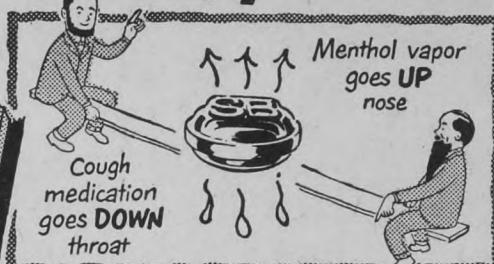
Pretty as a spotted fawn, she was; her eyes, deep and wide and soft, under the mist of her hair, seemed to scoop something out of the pit of his chest, and take it with them off to some secret, lovely places she knew, leaving him hollowed out and pining.

The picture of her remained with him all day, the memory of his own goose foolishness reddening his face and causing the sweat to pop out. Whatever had come over him? 'Twas her downright loveliness. Prettier than anything he'd ever seen, she was; he

To be sure, in Alberta as in other places there are men who cannot bear the thought of a natural resource lying idle. They burn to cash it in with no thought of the future. Apart from the composition of the Board, the character of the men chosen for executive office in the Eastern Slopes organization seems to guarantee that the public welfare will be zealously guarded. Barring political interference, which can never be forecast, it is better than an even bet that itchy fingers will be smartly rapped. From this distance in time it looks like a fair guess that the wise provision of 1947 to encourage a forest which will compensate in a few decades for our shrinking glaciers will prevail against the calculations of promoters.

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of hair, but it sadly needed cutting.

Later he squirmed when he found Cam eyeing him in quiet contemplation and with a touch of amusement.

"Looks like Bucky's a man growed now, for sure," Cam remarked at large. "Fore we know it he'll be fixin' to marry an' leave us. Got the girl picked out, son?"

Bucky said sullenly he had no time for girls.

"My sakes," Ma said, looking round. "Time enough to go soft over girls when he's twenty-one or thereabouts."

Bucky went her one better and said that never would be better still. He got up abruptly and left the house.

All the same he went on seeing Bridie in his mind. She nestled there sweet as honey in a comb. Oh, she could have ridden him a-bug-hunting to the cliff and made him jump over and think it fun, if she'd a mind. He caught himself making pictures of her being with him in the woods as she used to be, day-long tramps together, two tin plates for their eating, things a lot different. Always with these thoughts came the lonely-happy feel he had only in the woods with Cam. It was that way with all the deepest things to Bucky; with the thought of something sweet and happy a lonesome something came hard on its heels. And no wonder. He could never again come near such wonder as Bridie had now. Pretty rough he'd been with her a year back when she'd wanted to follow him around. He'd purely fixed it for himself. Now she'd no mind for the woods or him. She'd turned to things and comforts and town ways—like Ma.

Such a fool he was these days, thin and rabbity, all run to arms and legs and stumbling feet. When he went into town he felt his isolation as never before, felt himself actually being walled off, driven out. Sometimes a black brew surged up in him, a ruinous hatred, but he had Cam's detachment to fall back on.

From the dooryard he could see the scorn and sneers on the faces of team drivers going by, looking at the cornfield. No fences up. Those few who cared to could cross the Calloway land quite as if it had been deserted as aforetime. Hard to stand, keeping quiet about it all, pretending they were serious in their farming. It was such a gamble he and Cam were making.

Twice during those spring months Bucky went to Alf Simes' house to talk more about the geese. Each time he'd been at a low and hopeless ebb and each time he'd come away all fired anew with hope and reinforced with zeal, his mind and being scoured and sandblasted by the fiery flow of Alf's rhetoric, in the face of which all undertakings seemed not only possible but already won. The geese hadn't stopped that spring, but what of that? They'd stop for Cam's corn in the fall, Alf said. Already he was getting in his work on Bucky's plan. Twouldn't be long before the town would be seeing the light of his reason, never fear.

**K**EG, the Calloway's tame bear, had not been doing so well. For a week after he had unholed from the root cellar, he had wandered disconsolately through the deserted March woods, lean and cold and brittle of fur, and nauseated by the spring sickness of his kind. Instinct had told him

what to do about that and in time his illness passed away under a purge of waxberries and soapberries that grew in abundance on their ground-creeping vines. After that he felt better than ever before in his life, stronger, wilder, happier—and hungrier.

Prompted by that evanescent sixth sense which flickers on in the wiser among us, he was led to several rotting logs which were full of grubs, and he spent some blissful hours ripping the wood to pieces and savoring the new, rich feeding that was dear to every ursine palate. But he craved something else terribly. Stronger feeding, and companionship. The spell of the wintry woods still lay heavy over all things; the stillness increased, not broken by the hundred and one crepitant little sounds of the thaw. Not another bear was stirring in all the woods. There were rabbits and squirrels, however, and great horned owls, but they were no good to Keg, logy and slow-muscled as he was.

The call of the wild wrought vaguely upon him. He wandered by day and by night, knowing only that he must see behind the ranges. He made out to hunt as he went, but a thankless business it was in a frogless, fishless, honeyless world, a world where no pans of scraps were ever set out for a fellow. He had not forgotten the Calloways and one day he made for the Calloway clearing straight as the crow flies. There he found nothing but silence and desertion and experienced the first great shock of his life.

His trepidation gave way to an almost human sense of grief as the afternoon wore on with no sign of his friends' return. That night he slept, intermittently, close by the kitchen door, rising at times to move disconsolately about the cabin, expecting constantly that the door might open and his friends magically reappear and call him. But nothing of the sort occurred, even when rain set in toward morning and drove him to the shed.

**W**ITH the morning light his hopes were rekindled. Until noon he roamed about searching for scraps of food, rummaging through the rubbish pile. He had had about enough of the bootless game of stalking the thickets, but by afternoon, when his appetite had grown to an incubus that would not let him rest, he departed once more into the woods.

Two mornings later he came again to the Calloway clearing. He scratched at each door in turn; then, in a passion of appeal calculated to melt the hearts of his unfeeling friends, he rose on his hind legs and paraded back and forth before the door, doing his tricks. But house and clearing remained callously deserted, as before.

For the next two weeks this state of affairs continued. Keg would linger close to the cabin until gnawing hunger literally drove him into the woods, but always he would return. By the end of a month his expectancy had dulled, but clearing and cabin continued to be magnetic. Something was lacking in the deep woods and it was the Calloways he yearned for.

It was about this time that the cabin's draw was doubly increased for him by the fact that he gained access to the interior. A windstorm had blown open the rear door. Keg joyfully shifted his quarters from the clearing to the cabin kitchen. It was good to be in the old familiar quarters. The

rusted cookstove was still there and there were many gratifying scents of the recent occupants.

The wonderful golden weeks of May and June drifted by, and an abundance of berries began to be evident along the open hillsides. Keg needed no initiation to recognize these immemorial standbys of his clan. His wanderings now took him in ever-widening circles away from the clearing, but the richest feeding failed to satisfy his vague unrest.

It was at the end of June, as he was making a return journey to the cabin, that Keg experienced a delightful surprise. As he was rooting in a glade a man stepped out of the thicket. It was Bucky Calloway, out squirreling with Cam's rifle. Keg did not recognize him at once. Bucky called out laughingly and at the sound Keg's heart gave a joyful surge. With a glad bawl he shuffled forward and immediately his nose apprised him that this was Bucky Calloway, with whom he had romped and wrestled, reappearing



magically from the place in which he had been hiding so long. Keg rose up on his hind legs and fell upon the boy with an unrestrained delight that carried with it the threat of mayhem.

Time and again Bucky had wondered what had become of the half-grown cub. He'd have liked to accommodate Keg now with the loving wrestle for which his old pet yearned, but Keg's growth had been as phenomenal in the past few months as his own. For safety of life and limb he had to beat off the four-hundred-pound bear with sharp cuffs and peremptory cries, for Keg was quite unaware of his own strength and weight.

When his joy had somewhat subsided Keg fell to nosing into all Bucky's pockets as of old. There were no lumps of sugar, but Bucky had part of his lunch left, which Keg bolted with satisfaction. Bucky sat watching with a glow of pride and pleasure, eager now to lead Keg home and hear what Cam would say, for his father had never thought to see the cub again.

He rose presently and moved away in the woods, Keg following some distance behind, but stopping often to nose into holes and crannies. After half a mile or so he fell far behind and Bucky went on alone. But Keg's nose was none too good in the puzzling out of trails and in his brain there was but one spot associated with Bucky Calloway—the old deserted cabin. Thither he returned at nightfall by roundabout ways, only to find the place empty as before.

**B**UCKY had run the last half mile home that afternoon, full of the news of his meeting with Keg, only to

find that Cam was away. Ma threw up her hands with a gesture of resignation when she heard.

"Sakes alive, Bucky, don't tell me you've lured that lollipin' bruiser back here to eat off us for the summer!" she cried. "He ain't only another mouth to feed, he'd be five or six mouths now, an' prob'ly there's nothin' viciouser in the woods."

"Huh, not hardly," Bucky laughed. "He ain't changed a mite. Rared up and like to have kissed me, he was that glad to see me. He was nosein' along behind me, headed this way when I left him."

"I purely hope somethin' lay-ways him before he gets here," Ma said. "Nobody in this house ever thinks of cost but me. For the first time in two years we've had our chance to get ahead a mite, with that bear an' his appetite away in the woods."

"Aw, Ma. There's plenty berries and mast in the woods now. I promise he won't eat off us. I'll get him honey and fish to eat. Lordy, but I've missed seeing him around."

Little Viney, who had just come in, set up a wail of pleasure and anticipation when she heard. Ever since Keg had left in the spring she'd been pining for him. For nearly two years Keg had taken the place of all the play-pretties, dolls, and oddmedods she hadn't had in her lonely backwoods childhood.

"I'm going out and find Keg now," she announced. "Whereabouts was it you saw him, Bucky?"

Because of Keg's bulk and strength Bucky went with her for safety's sake. They followed Bucky's back trail for nearly a mile, but saw nothing of Keg. By the time owlflight came the bear had still not appeared. Ma breathed a sigh of relief.

"Looks like nature'd taken a hand in our favor this once," she said, but Viney cried herself to sleep that night.

THE next few days she took to woods roaming in the hope of finding her pet again. One still afternoon about a week later, she had wandered far from the home clearing along the bank of a little stream. Timber-raised and used to lonely playing, she'd entered into that magic realm that gregarious children never know and grownups wouldn't have credited even if she could have told them of it, grownups managing to forget all such things with maturity. For two hours she'd wandered here, there, and everywhere, playing in her own way, vying with the red squirrels in search of nuts, with the willow wrens in the seeking out of secret places, and with the big paint-green frogs in plumbing the depths of the woodland pools.

About mid-afternoon she'd come to the banks of a little stream. Now she was making boats out of rolled bark and sending boatloads of frightened folk down the rushing stream to the far-off sea, or so she hoped. Her people were pine cones and acorns and she sang to them with each launching.

Presently a disturbing sensation that she was not alone began to steal over the child—a sense that unfriendly eyes were close by. She hardly credited it at first, but it persisted. Finally she stood up and strove to penetrate the blue-black shadows.

Then her heart gave a violent surge and she wished mightily she had taken

heed of those semi-conscious warnings earlier. Something subtle as a shifting cloud had caused her to glance upward and there, framed in a tangle of windfall, she saw a round, malign head with two ochre-green eyes that fixed her with cruel intensity. It was old Fire Eyes himself.

He'd been there a long time, had Fire Eyes, watching Viney Calloway at play. Oh, this was not the first time he had followed the girl in her woods wandering. More than a year back he had taken to watching her in her own clearing, knowing well that he could obliterate her with a single pounce. But mighty killer that he was, he had never yet taken human life. Each time he had shadowed her, the one part frenzied daring had come a bit closer to prevailing over the nine parts sheer cowardice that composed his nature, but an instinctive awe of man continued to hold him from success.

Today, in this lonely spot, he had lashed himself to the point of lethal action. And like the fiery heart of the hawk, the blood lust of Fire Eyes, fully roused, was not to be turned aside.

Abruptly the panther's head withdrew for an instant, to reappear at another spot several feet closer. There was a suggestion of the long, tawny body now, the color of gun-metal, a shaft of cold fear in the purpose to be felt in its sinister movements.

Breaking the spell of the dreadful watching eyes, Viney turned and fled along the stream bank. A glance flung to the rear showed the panther gliding serpentwise through the thickets, coming on.

EMBOLDENED by the sight of the child running away, Fire Eyes covered the ground in long, undulating bounds, keeping to the undergrowth. Viney ran now with frank abandon and with all the strength she had. She had never before known fear of wild things, but she was terrified now and whimpered as she ran, fearing each moment to be struck down. But her woods sense did not leave her; she knew just where she was—less than half a mile from the old deserted Calloway cabin—and toward it, in spite of panic, she turned in her flight, knowing there would be refuge there.

Old Fire Eyes was fascinated by the ancient game of chasing a desperate quarry. He came on, always keeping to cover, never getting closer, yet never falling behind. The natural indirection of all cats was all that delayed the fatal issue in those first vital minutes.

Keg, as it happened, was rummaging disconsolately about the deserted Calloway clearing. Rounding a corner of the house in late afternoon, he raised his head eagerly at sound of a human cry that came floating to him from somewhere out at the edge of the woods. He paused to peer with his myopic little eyes and saw a girl come dashing into the clearing, calling out desperately as she ran. Then he saw that it was Viney. He lumbered joyously forward.

The child in her panic flight had reached the clearing back of the cabin in the very nick of time. Fire Eyes was gliding along in the rear, but the instinct for keeping to cover kept him busy utilizing every possible clump of undergrowth in his path.

Her breath coming in a sobbing double action, the child spurted across

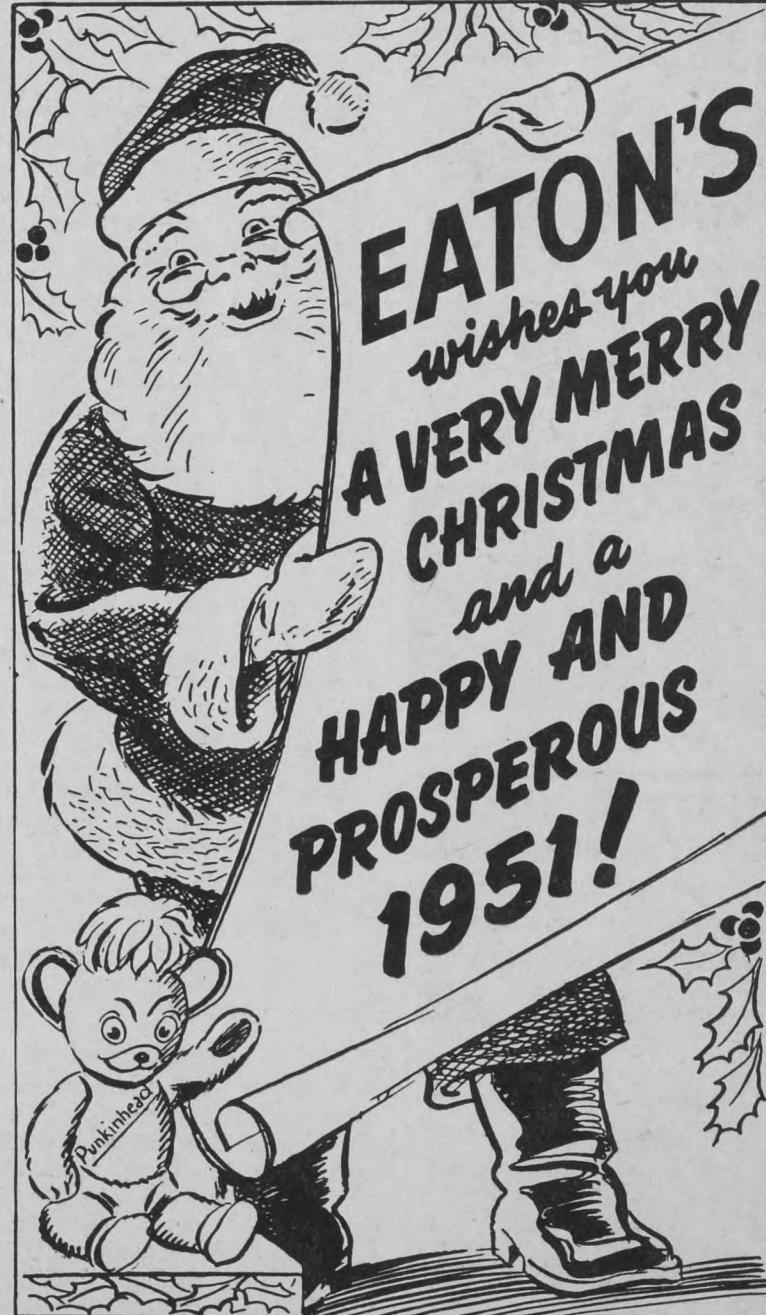
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the woodlot with the last of her strength, the panther now but a couple of rods behind. The rear cabin door stood mercifully open. 'Twas then, when she was only halfway across the clearing, that there came a fresh shaft of terror at the apparition of Keg's lumbering form as he rounded the cabin and made straight for the youngster, mouth open. She plunged in at the open door, just as old Fire Eyes, literally beside himself with fury and blood-madness, came lancing through the air to land upon the neck and shoulders of the bear.

TOWARD the middle of that afternoon, Bucky, rounding home after a desultory hunt, had come upon the broad, rounded tracks of Fire Eyes in the damp earth on the bank of a little stream. He knew that trail by its exceptional size. And as he had done a score of times before, he turned aside to follow it, for the tracks showed to be less than an hour old. For a thousand yards along the bank he worked out the trail, noting where Fire Eyes had crouched belly-down for intervals to watch and wait. What had the old killer been stalking, he wondered?

He was a long time puzzling out the tracks where they finally left the stream bank and when he did he was startled to find mingled with them the footprints of a child. It could be that Fire Eyes had grown bold enough to stalk human prey for a change, if that prey happened to be a little tyke like Viney. Long since Bucky's eye had taken note of a circling buzzard whose slow gyres of flight were dropping lower and lower above the forest.

Bucky hurried forward now, his quick eye reading sign as he went. He came upon deepened toe marks and saw that the child was in full flight. His heart began to pound, for Fire Eyes' trail too had become a series of long bounds, each deep paw mark scored round by prints of unsheathed claws. Bucky was running too, soundless in his felt-soled shoes.

Stumbling through thickets, he sped toward the deserted cabin by the shortest possible route, pausing to shout now and then through cupped hands. He arrived panting at the edge of the old clearing just in time to witness the tableau of old Fire Eyes locked in fiendish battle with a black bear—a bear which even in the thresh of conflict Bucky recognized as Keg.

Ordinarily bear and panther tactfully avoid one another in their comings and goings, through mutual and well-warranted respect of prowess, each being something of a forest king in his own right. But in this instance all such inhibitions had been swept aside. When Keg suddenly appeared round the corner of the cabin, it seemed to old Fire Eyes a direct attempt to rob him of the prey he had so patiently stalked—the most unforgivable crime in the wild. Instantly he had sprung forward to annihilate this hereditary foe, for the feud between bear and panther is age-old.

KEG had been flung forward on his nose as the two hundred pounds of death, armed with four sets of saber claws, landed on his back. Immediately the slow, deadly wrath of his phlegmatic nature was lashed to flame. In his nostrils was the alien scent of his attacker. Rearing upward with a bawl of rage, he flung all his great strength into the struggle, mouth open

in the savage caricature of a grin that is the fighting mask of the black bear.

The vantage at the outset was all with the panther. He rode his adversary like some giant leech, with talons that clung like grappling hooks and ripped like razors, and he was busy every second.

Though it was his first real battle, Keg knew he was being killed. The tactics of Fire Eyes were swift, bloody, and horrible, for endurance was not in his arsenal. He must kill quickly, before his enemy's superior strength and weight could be brought into play. His back bent to an arch of



"Oh, Daniel dear. All burned to a crisp  
... my first pie."

whalebone, he raked madly, at the same time cutting in with his long fangs toward the life arteries in Keg's thick, fury neck.

Staggering under the killer's weight, Keg battled silently now to gain some hold. The devastation wrought was appalling. Blood smeared his chest. He brought up against the log wall of the cabin and instinct prompted him to batter himself against it and scrape his opponent off. But all his efforts failed to dislodge his deathly rider.

He flung himself on his side. One of the panther's paws came in reach, and Keg's jaws closed upon it and locked. The cat creature emitted a scream—the inability of all felines to endure pain. The murderous clamp on Keg's throat slackened, and in a moment he had heaved himself over and grappled the bulk of the enemy on an equal footing. All his great strength was brought into play in a wrestler's grip that strained the panther's ribs to cracking, but never for an instant did his grip on Fire Eyes' leg relax.

The panther's first mad fury turned into something like insanity. The tawny beast's struggles showed no reason now, while Keg, though desperately wounded, fought grimly on.

Through the cabin window Bucky had seen Viney's frightened face and he knew that she was safe. Closer and closer he moved across the clearing, his nearness unsuspected by either beast. His rifle was ready to exact the final penalty from old Fire Eyes the moment opportunity presented. But in the surge of the conflict he dared not fire for fear of killing Keg. He found himself shouting encouragement to his old pet.

It seemed an eternity to Bucky before Fire Eyes' long, lean body seemed to give away. There came a fiendish squall, then the sounds of conflict diminished, until there were only a few low snarlings to be heard and the ruck of worrying jaws. Keg had torn his opponent loose and

brought one great forearm down on his spine like a pile driver. A second time the paw descended. A few more snakelike flounders and the spark of the panther's life snuffed out.

It was a minute or so before Keg realized his victory. As if to complete his vengeance, he continued to beat and rend the inert heap of flesh with teeth and claws till it resembled nothing that had ever walked. His fury finally appeased, he fell to doctoring his wounds. Then, seeing Bucky Calloway standing near, he abruptly rose and ambled toward him in sudden, lolling friendliness.

OUT from the cabin dashed Viney, rushing into Bucky's arms as to a haven. She'd have run straight into the arms of Keg, too, to tug lovingly at his hairy chest, but Bucky held her back.

"Best let him be, Viney," he warned. "He's just found out he's a big one an' a wild one, the wildest, wooliest thing on four legs an' the almighty fighter these woods have ever seen. He's a whoppin' big bruiser now, an' he's apt to forget himself an' crack a few more ribs in play without knowin' it."

Bucky had some of his lunch left and this he laid out for Keg. Meantime Viney told and retold the hair-raising events of an afternoon in the woods, and by degrees he was able to piece together the story.

It became evident that Keg's wounds hurt grievously. After whimpering and laving them with soothing tongue for a time, he turned and shuffled away into the forest, where instinct would lead him to the best woods healing for his kind. Bucky stood watching till the shadows swallowed him up. With him went Bucky's benediction and a host of memories, the flavor and the poignancy of countless days of boyhood that would never return, as Keg quite possibly would never return. For he was a grown bear now and by another year he'd likely have no further interest in humans or their ways.

Bucky got out his knife then and knelt beside the sorry remains of old Fire Eyes. There was little left to skin out of that infamous killer, but the legs and the oversize feet remained intact. Every scrap of that tattered hide Bucky meant to preserve, to back up the tale, which would surely be told and retold down the years, of how the Calloways' tame bear had met and killed the famous Swiftwater panther and saved a child's life.

IT was on the first of July that Mr. Dell Fraser, the hardware salesman, came again to Swiftwater on his semi-annual visit. He arrived from the city at four o'clock one hot afternoon and did Stemline's and the hardware store before closing time at six, a bore-some and tedious business.

"Not a stone turned since I was here last. This town needs me; she's paralyzed," Mr. Fraser thought, walking down the main street.

Supper at the Lakeview Hotel, Swiftwater's only hostelry, and he the only transient guest. The name itself bored him. "There are 750 'Lakeview' hotels and boarding houses through this neck of the woods, and not the buzz of a new idea in any one of 'em."

As he relaxed on the veranda, the last of the sunset glinting on the distant stretch of lake, Hayes, the

hotel man, and others sat around or lingered in passing.

"You call this hot?" Del Fraser inquired. "Why this is sitting out in the cool dew. Down in the city they're taking their sheets out to the fire escapes tonight and in many a town only 50-60 miles away. Why don't you let the big towns know what you've got here?"

"Yes, guess it must have been pretty hot down in the city today," said Hamey, the undertaker.

"Why don't you let 'em know what you've got?" Mr. Fraser demanded again. "Somebody's going to wake up this town. Somebody's going to pull the city people out to these cool beaches. What you need first is a key line!"

"A what?" said Hayes.

"A key line to designate your town—a line to make 'em talk, make 'em come. You've got to have a key line to a town, a car, or a business nowadays. The right one's worth a million."

Pondering ensued, but no enthusiasm. Mr. Fraser seemed irritated. Presently a brisk rapping was heard on the walk, and a lean old man, cane in hand, came stumping around the corner. The loungers perked up noticeably. Greetings were hearty, and Mr. Fraser heard the name Alf Simes. A place was made for the newcomer beside the city man.

Old Alf often held forth on the Lakeview's veranda, times when his own porch failed to draw a crowd. Many a townsman was the chary of the old man, not a few were outright enemies, and wished him ill, yet these things were forgotten when they came in radius of Alf's voice. They were swept and held by the magic of it, played with and mesmerized as though a searching wind blew among them.

Alf took over tonight as usual, in spite of the city guest. Mr. Fraser listened with tolerant humor at first, tabbing Alf as a laughable backwoods character. But within ten minutes he was spellbound without realizing it, relaxing, sighing at times, chuckling, guffawing loudly as his idling mind and flaccid nerves were filled or taken hold of by the deft play of that silver tongue. Before half an hour was up, however, Mr. Fraser was convinced that he was a power to be reckoned with.

Alf had made a recent trip to the city and he retailed his adventures there. He had been whizzed round the city in high-powered cars. He'd gone down into the bowels of a submarine that lay in the harbor, he'd paid a dollar for a single shot of second-rate hooch, and he'd seen women dancing in a honky-tonk arrayed in nothing but three inches of silk. He'd gotten into such a city-hurry to get nowhere that he'd been going up in the clouds in an airplane when his son Hance had come onto him and stopped him.

In a lull Hamey the undertaker asked Alf to name the most outstanding achievement of this puerile and decadent age, daring him to point out the milestone that marked the furthest limit of human foolishness and stupidity. Alf answered without hesitation that the automobile and the bombing plane were pegged about equal for the honor and way out in front of everything that had been thought of since Bryan's free silver.

Presently Alf veered round to his

fox farm. He'd started out with a single pair of black fox and by mid-winter he figured to see his investment pay off in prime fur at a rate of some 600 per cent. Market fur of the future was going to be farm-raised, not trapped, Alf claimed. It was plain as the neck on an ostrich.

"Yes," said Dell Fraser, "there'll be fox farms and mink and sable and otter farms. It's all part of progress."

"You mighty come a-right it is," Alf said.

Presently Mr. Fraser was led to inquire: "Say, whatever became of that kid who fought over the wild goose last fall?"

"Oh, Bucky Calloway. Why, he was in town just a while ago. Up and slipped away the way he always does," Hayes said. "He won't be with us much longer—"

"What do you mean—bad lungs?"

"Bucky's lungs are all right, only he'll be going the way of his father, one of these days."

"Oh I recall. His father was what you might call itinerary," chuckled Mr. Fraser. He became reminiscent. "I keep thinking of that kid and that night, seeing the geese go over and hearing them talk from the lake in the room upstairs—kind of tonic about it, and I'll bet there's 50,000 men and boys just like me down in the city. Just say 'wild goose' to 'em and they'd come to life. You fellows don't know what you've got here. These beaches are going to be worth millions! One key line about geese and Swiftwater would start 'em coming and keep 'em coming. 'Swiftwater, Where the Wild Geese Stop'!"

"But they don't always stop," said Hayes, the hotel man. "In fact, only once in several years."

Mr. Fraser braved this out: "They have stopped. They will again. They go over, don't they? Besides, the advertisement's the thing."

It was the undertaker who broke the silence at this critical point. "They tell me Bucky Calloway says he knows why the geese stop some years and not others. They say he brags about it—"



*"Let's move that guy . . . people will think he's one of us!"*

"You don't say," said Mr. Fraser. "Crazy as his father," said Hayes.

Old Alf cut in with a rabid snort. "It's you fellers an' the town that's crazy, not Bucky Calloway," he cried. "Crazy an' asleep, as our friend Mr. Fraser was saying. Bucky Calloway knows right enough what'll make the geese stop an' it ain't brag-talk neither. Bucky come to me with his idea long gone, an' I give him a heap o' advice. I an' him are what you might call partners in a little idea concernin' the wild geese. Bucky an' his pa are workin' out the plan right now an'

you fellers are like to have your eyes opened to a few things come fall."

Any other man who had gotten back of some plan of the no-account Calloways would have been laughed down and pooh-poohed to silence, but not a man present but would as soon have poked a fire with a stick of dynamite as cross Alf Simes. Alf talked on for a time, alluding to Bucky Calloway and his project, but refusing to lift the veil that overhung the matter. Mr. Fraser listened with an intensity that precluded even the asking of questions, for he knew that if Bucky Calloway knew what made the wild geese stop, maybe he knew how to make them stop.

THE night was unseasonably warm for the time of year. Upon retiring Mr. Fraser lay wakeful by the open window. His sporting blood had been roused and his thoughts stimulated by the talk he'd heard and the memory of the geese on the lake. Vaguely he longed for some nameless freedom, weary as never before of totting heavy bags of hinges and door-knobs and ever-thickening catalogues from town to town.

He fell asleep at last and toward dawn he wakened suddenly and the idea was still there, clear as glass. He could write his own ticket. He could see the alluring advertisements; hear men talking about it in dozens of distant towns. It was a bonanza of an idea; it would carry him far. But he must find a man with the know-how.

Next morning he asked some cautious questions here and there. In the afternoon he rented a horse and rig and drove out along the lakeshore road toward the Calloway's marshland cabin.

It was a strange meeting in more ways than one. As Mr. Fraser was tying his horse to a tree, a great dog rushed out and set up a fierce bawl. Mr. Fraser, however, was somewhat of a dog man and soon had the animal mollified. But as he was approaching the cabin what should come barging out of the thickets but a full-grown bear, his great mouth agape in what was evidently a savage snarl of challenge. Keg had come upon the new Calloway cabin only the day before and had won a lasting truce with loneliness. The new cabin became synonymous with the old to Keg and it was as if his long and lonely vigil had never been.

Rearing and whinnying in terror, Mr. Fraser's horse broke free and fled, buggy and all, some 500 yards into the forest. Pudgy Mr. Fraser himself turned and ran, his face gone the color of an old lime wall. He was yelling at the top of his voice, when Cam Calloway appeared. To Fraser's amazement he drove off the bear with a stroke or two of a switch. Then Bucky came out of the cabin, almost man-grown now, hardly recognizable as the boy of the fall before.

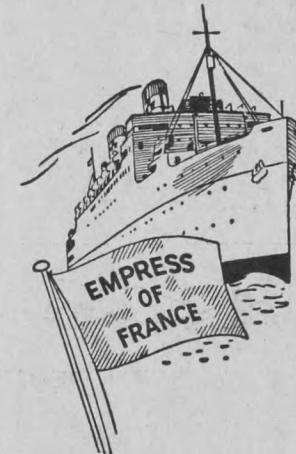
"I'm right sorry that fool bear had to go an' scare you," Cam apologized. "He looks right fractious, I'll swear, but he's harmless as any cow animal. Just a pet we raised up from a cub."

WHEN he had regained his breath, the three went up to the cabin. Very cautiously Mr. Fraser led up to the subject of wild geese, but soon Cam and Bucky were talking freely. The perennial dreamer in Cam was met and matched after a fashion by the perennial long-chance gambler

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that lived in Dell Fraser. All that Cam knew and told about the geese only bolstered Mr. Fraser's rosy plan, though the interests of the two were wide apart as the poles. The Calloways signified neither interest nor dispassion in the salesman's long, wordy pictures of what a wild goose sanctuary might mean to Swiftwater. They simply heard the other out, endured it as rocks in a stream endure the swirling waters round them. Mr. Fraser might do what he liked. Safety for the geese in the nearby marshes was all that concerned the Calloways.

Mr. Fraser quickly changed his tactics. He talked nothing but sanctuary after that, but led the others out on ways and means. When they parted the three were co-partners in silence on the vaguest long-shot gamble any of them had ever hoped up, even in fancy. More corn was to be planted at once and Mr. Fraser left with the Calloways \$100 in cash—a sort of grub-stake agreement, more to come, later when needed—for the things they might want for the furtherance of the plan.

That night Cam and Bucky went into town to pay a few bills. In spite of the big new idea, Cam's spirits seemed low. It had been so since spring. Cam carried on, but he talked little these days and his back was bent a bit as though he carried a heavy load. Not all Bucky's talk about the geese and the possibility of a perma-

gent living for Cam if the sanctuary was established seemed to brighten his father's outlook. Something worked on his mind; it would come out when it suited him, Bucky thought.

It was as they walked home under the stars that something of it came to words.

"Like to see Peter Nigosh again. Hunt him up, maybe. That hawk dream o' mine—been naggin' me all week. Fair boogerish it's got to be. Last night in my dream I lay in a rocky, fearsome place, held down hand an' foot, with the cussed bird tearin' at me. Could hear it scream—"

The words struck into Bucky, opening up a nest of fear. A darkness in them; 'twas as if he'd been fearful of hearing them spoken all along. If only it didn't drive Cam away.

"Oh, Pa, it's like a sign," he cried. "You been all changed since spring—" Under the saving cover of the darkness Bucky's heart and dread seemed woven with his words. "Please don't go off nowhere this summer. Promise you won't, Pa!"

Cam chuckled quietly. "I got nary mind to leave, son. We're purely whittled out a job fer ourselves here—us an' Mr. Fraser." He laid a soothing hand on Bucky's shoulder for a moment and a world of apprehension stilled in the boy's chest.

They walked on for a time in silence. Bats rent the evening's porcelain in zigzag lines, like a crack in a

cup. Presently it was Cam's turn to loose a shaft.

"The love quill's entered you, son," Cam stated quietly, apropos of nothing. "It's buried deep."

Bucky stiffened.

"I felt it long gone," Cam said. "Knowed 'twas nigh time. Is it the right girl? That's what matters."

Still Bucky could not speak.

"Remember, son, a Calloway's woman's his heart an' life. Never heard tell of a lukewarm one in all our line. Make sure the quill don't break—that's all."

He paused for a moment, then swept away all final barriers with another chuckle. "Oh, it's a fine girl Jeth Mellott's raised an' no mistake. Bridie runs deep. Like us. You showed more'n a grain o' sense there, Bucky. 'Twas more'n chance that made you two hold together, growin' up."

A sweet thrill shot along Bucky's spine at the very mention of her name. Oh, thankful he was now for the enshrouding dark. 'Twas to be expected Cam would know. How could it be otherwise? Cam couldn't help knowing, as he knew the spirits of woods and places. Still, Bucky could bring up no words.

They walked on in silence through the warm dark.

**I**N July summer set in in earnest. The summer world was the insect world, for no insect ever found a day

too hot. The more relentlessly the sun beat down, the faster whirred the wings of wasp and bee and dragonfly. The ants moved faster and the long-faced, armor-plated "hopper-grasses" ate many times their weight of green each day. All month it did not rain. The pinewoods went tinder-dry. 'Twas a real old-time "hot snap," as Ma put it.

Corn weather, hot, short nights. It became clear what the saying meant—that you can hear corn grow. Corn was racing for its life against the weeds apparently, in the Calloway cornfield; another small field not planted till early July struggling up beside it.

August came. All through the hot weather Bucky sullen and moaned. So little to do, with the woods all somnolent, the creatures somnolent, too, hunting days still far ahead. Neither he nor Cam was ever cut out for crops of corn and beans and rutabagas and pens of chickens. It took more than a sorry farmer to make a go of trap line and hunting trail.

The waiting and inaction made it hard—this big idea of theirs—the goods they had undertaken to deliver to Mr. Fraser. Nothing to know for sure till fall. If it didn't work out, Bucky decided, he might pack up and get out of here. See some of the world as Cam had done. He was old enough now. And then Bridie could have Whit Turner.

Again and again he gave her to

## SOME DO!



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Turner, or gave them to each other and welcome, but that didn't settle it. The thing was hot and sick within him, back and forth, always two sides to it. She and Whit never could make each other out though. They would never get along to amount to anything. Bucky knew all about her, as he knew about the wild geese. But his thin lips smiled miserably and he jeered at himself.

"Maybe I don't know so much," he thought. "I don't even know if the geese'll stop—if they'll even come over." A host of uncertainties kept him frightened and feverish.

And then one day he actually talked with Bridie and things were changed a bit. She overtook him on his way to town, with quick, almost noiseless steps, after he'd passed her place.

"Hello, Bucky," she greeted, and fell in beside him.

"Hello," he said huskily. Then he went dull, his thoughts taking a perverse turn now that she had bridged the distance between them.

"Going in to Stemline's?" she asked.  
"Yes."

"You never stop by any more," she said, and his heart gave a flip like a hooked salmon.

"Had no time," he said.

"Father said at breakfast that he hadn't seen you in months."

"I've seen him."

They were silent for a space, walking close, each in a wheel track in the winding road. He smelled the clean fragrance of her. His head was swimming, but all the anticipation, all the things he'd planned to do and say were lost in a hazy dreaminess. A sort of sleepiness had fallen over him! They walked with quickened pace now, but stuck in a mud of silence, as if they'd just met inopportunistically. Once or twice she looked up at him intently.

"How's everything at your house?" she finally said.

"All right." A happiness was welling up in him, but he couldn't speak. Something weighed him down like lead. A lot of senseless things rose to mind and each as it was thrust back made everything harder, till he went red and swallowed. Oh, he was the biggest fool that ever wore shoes, not a doubt of it.

"Bucky—"

"What?"

"Don't you know that people are all wondering and laughing about your cornfield and the way you let it go untended?"

"I've heard it—seen it, too," he said.

"Why don't you and Cam plant the way the others do, Bucky? Then they'd stop."

"We got our reasons."

"I knew you must have. Father said so too. Said he wouldn't wonder if Cam had just put in some corn for the woods varmints. But it's all made me mad."

Silence again, but his pulse was quickened, his blood surging in the knowledge that she'd been concerned.

"You never go into town Saturday nights, do you?" she asked.

"No."

"There are parties, and sometimes a dance at Town Hall. It's lots of fun."

"I suppose Whit Turner takes you to 'em," he burst out. He said more. Plenty of words he found when it came to bitterness. He could scarce bridle them back.

"A girl can't just sit at home forever," she said when he had finished.

The words were quiet, but it was like a hot nail back for him. Her face was partly turned away. "Did you know that Whit Turner hasn't forgotten about last fall? He's been waiting and fixing ever since for another fight."

"Did he tell you that?"

"No. But he's been training, they say. He's got a punching bag. Aren't you scared?"

"Guess I can take care of myself."

"Could you, if it wasn't over the wild geese?" Cam had said almost that, he remembered.

"Why do you care so much about it—think I'll lammux him again?" he burst out.

"Oh, it's none of my business, of course," she said. "I just thought I'd tell you."

Then they came to the town edge and parted, going different ways. He'd muddled everything up again, he guessed, and a new wretchedness enveloped him.



*He always likes to show this double exposure. That's his wife on the front walk and that's him fixing the side of the house.*

ONCE only Mr. Fraser had come out again, rather surreptitiously, to the Calloway place. There was another long talk; there were a few additions to the plan; another strip of corn was to be planted that would ripen by late fall. Mr. Fraser had gone cannily into the matter of protected areas. He suggested that a tame decoy goose or two be procured as a lure to the flocks, but this Cam would not consent to. The geese would come without tricks, he said.

Bucky felt better after the visit. He had been tending to his end of the bargain, Mr. Fraser had, stirring things up in town, dropping seeds in the Swiftwater mind. He'd been showing up weekly in town, not confining himself wholly to the hardware trade. There'd been business with the bank, careful talks with leading citizens. Life had trained Mr. Fraser in the slowness of budding monetary affairs, but the slowness of Swiftwater was a perennially painful experience. He saw with unshakable clarity that Swiftwater was his future field of operation, saw that the town couldn't sleep forever, that tourists, a railroad spur, a paved highway even, were destined to connect it with the cities to the south. But even he had no idea of how slow this project would be to sprout.

One of his best bets, the projected Lake Shore Highway, had met with complete resistance. Swiftwater feared the taxes; a goodly part of the leading merchants were frightened cold at the thought of taxes. Moreover, Swiftwater seemed unable to see that the wild geese could have anything to do with the town's future. That part of Swiftwater which was without funds could see it, but Swiftwater of the

buttoned pocket was not so romantic.

Many of the details Mr. Fraser did not report to the Calloways. It had become apparent that the only real enthusiasm over the wild-goose plan came from Swiftwater's sporting element, who saw possibilities for unlimited hunting ahead and the chance to draw in city hunters. At this stage of the game Mr. Fraser was not objecting to any interest whatsoever; in fact, the latent hunter in his own blood had been roused. Hayes of the Lakeview expressed the general opinion:

"You can't keep people from shooting at a goose flock as it goes over. I know how they feel. Every time I hear 'em cackle up there the palm of my hand itches for the old shotgun. I'm just pulled to the gun rack. It's human nature. I don't guess the geese mind it a lot either."

"When the town realizes that them are the geese that laid Swiftwater's golden egg—" Mr. Fraser said with oratorical fervor. Suddenly his mind lit with the power of his last words. "The Golden Egg," he repeated. "The Golden Egg, gentlemen, that's the name for this big new hotel—golf, tennis, saddle horse, beach proposition I've been talking of. The Golden Egg that the wild geese laid, we can explain as we pass out candles to our guests retirin' at night—" He glanced around, but his facetiousness was quite lost on the hangers-on.

"But they don't lay anywhere hereabout," said Hamey the undertaker.

"As to that," said Mr. Fraser, with a foamy light in his eye, "I have reason to believe—strange as it may seem, I have reason to believe it can be fixed."

Later Postmaster Briscoe had exploded: "Fixed for the geese to stop an' lay! Fraser's a live wire all right, but he might's well tell me he's contracted for an orchestra of trumpeter swans to play each evenin' on the hotel porch."

Still Mr. Fraser was getting his idea into action, though considerably delayed, and all on his own funds and initiative so far, or so he thought. It was some time before he became aware of a powerful ally working for his cause. He learned of it from Bucky Calloway. Old Alf Simes had been getting in some work on the Swiftwater public mind. At first Mr. Fraser was racked with misprision about this. Old Alf was a cute one; it could be he was cutting in on the plan for his own ends. It was not until an evening in mid-August, when a small group of the town businessmen consented to foregather at Town Hall and hear all he had to say, that his mind was set at rest on that score. Old Alf himself appeared at the meeting just as Mr. Fraser got up to speak. Alf was dressed up till his own mule wouldn't have known him.

THE hardware man put forth his arguments pro and con. There was the usual lukewarm reaction from the assembly. But before the luke had cooled to a definite chill, old Alf himself got up and took the floor without so much as by your leave. Where Mr. Fraser had given out bald statements of fact, old Alf executed some clever flank attacks, drawing upon the powers of eloquence, persuasion, and imagination. He skirmished skillfully, driving home his points under cover

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of humor, needling his listeners now and again with sharp sallies that apparently shamed a few, working from the vantage of a lifelong knowledge of their ways and weaknesses, things Mr. Fraser could never come by.

Alf talked on for 20 minutes and as always a sort of mesmerism began to work on his listeners. Somehow the word had gotten round, and men began slipping in at the open door, one and two at a time, eager to hear anything Alf said. Before long folk were crowding the hall thick as flies and as always Alf's craft was whetted by numbers.

Two things stood out for Mr. Fraser: First, that old Alf had nothing personal on the ball. He was arguing the case of the wild geese mainly out of contrariness, because he knew it was unpopular. Second, Alf was stumping the straight Calloway ticket; it was purely the sanctuary idea, no shooting, no outside hunters coming in, that Alf argued for. Well, let him. Anything that would get the idea started would serve the purpose. Once the town got behind the idea and the geese started coming, human nature would take its course. There'd be hunting aplenty—no one could stop that—and the Fraser plans would work out, whether or no. Business was business, and old Alf had turned out to be his ace in the hole.

But Alf was drawing up his big

guns for the kill. "You men can't get the idea of huntin' out o' your heads. You're hindsighted like you always been," he accused. "You want to see city duck hunters swarm in here spring an' fall for the mite o' money they'll drop while they're in town. 'Twouldn't be long 'fore the flocks was killed off an' then where'd you be? If you got the geese to stop an' protected 'em, 'twould soon draw tourists from all over the country. Science sharps an' even the government would soon take notice of you. 'Twould be the makin' o' the town.

"This is a Swiftwater project, men, an' Swiftwater's got to keep control of it. Now let's us consider this little meetin' as the first assembly of Swiftwater's Chamber of Commerce. Here we stand tonight under one o' the wild geese's overland routes. This is the place where you hear 'em an' see 'em goin' over an' out on the lake. Yes, sir, we got the key to public fancy right here in our hands. We even got the slogan, the key line, as our friend Mr. Fraser put it, that'll start this town goin' an' keep her goin'. Let's us decide right now which way we're headin'."

There was prolonged discussion. But still the general vote was against giving full sanction to the idea at present. But people would weigh the matter; they would wait and watch. All of it depended on what happened in the fall migration.

CORN was ripening now. Already many of the farmers were at their cutting. But the scraggly field of fodder on the Calloway place still stood high above the mats of weed—kernels filled out and toasting brown in the sun; a second field was just beginning to ripen.

"Of all crazy things!" People still had their say and laughed, for few had any idea that the crop was not for the Calloways' own consumption.

And now a change was beginning to be felt in all the forest. You could see the signs of it here, and there, and everywhere, if you'd the woods eye. An unwonted stillness in the underway for the time of year, fewer birds, a growing dearth of the rabbit folk. It was as if Nature had sickened of her long prolificacy and turned her face away.

Often one came upon a rabbit or a bird lying dead in the thickets for no known cause. Often the Calloways saw rabbits and birds that were plainly sick and enfeebled. Once a weasel passed through their field. His red-brown fur looked dry and scrofulous, his eye was glazed, and he'd lost his marvelous speed and litheness, but he was carrying out to the end the mission for which he was born, the injunction fate had put upon him to kill.

"That feller's near his end," Cam said. "Mind what I told you last fall about the Die Off, Bucky? Oh, it's workin' fast. All through the woods the critters are sick an' dyin'. We'll

see but a handful of pa'tridge this season. Owl an' hawk an' wolf an' panther'll fatten on the weak this year."

"What'll it do to the geese, Pa? Think they'll stop this year?"

"I got a right smart feelin' they will," Cam said. "The death time'll not affect the geese. They live in the law; they never overbreed. It's the critters that'll suffer most. By winter, followin' a trap line'd fair beggar a man. He'd scarce get enough hair for his eyebrow."

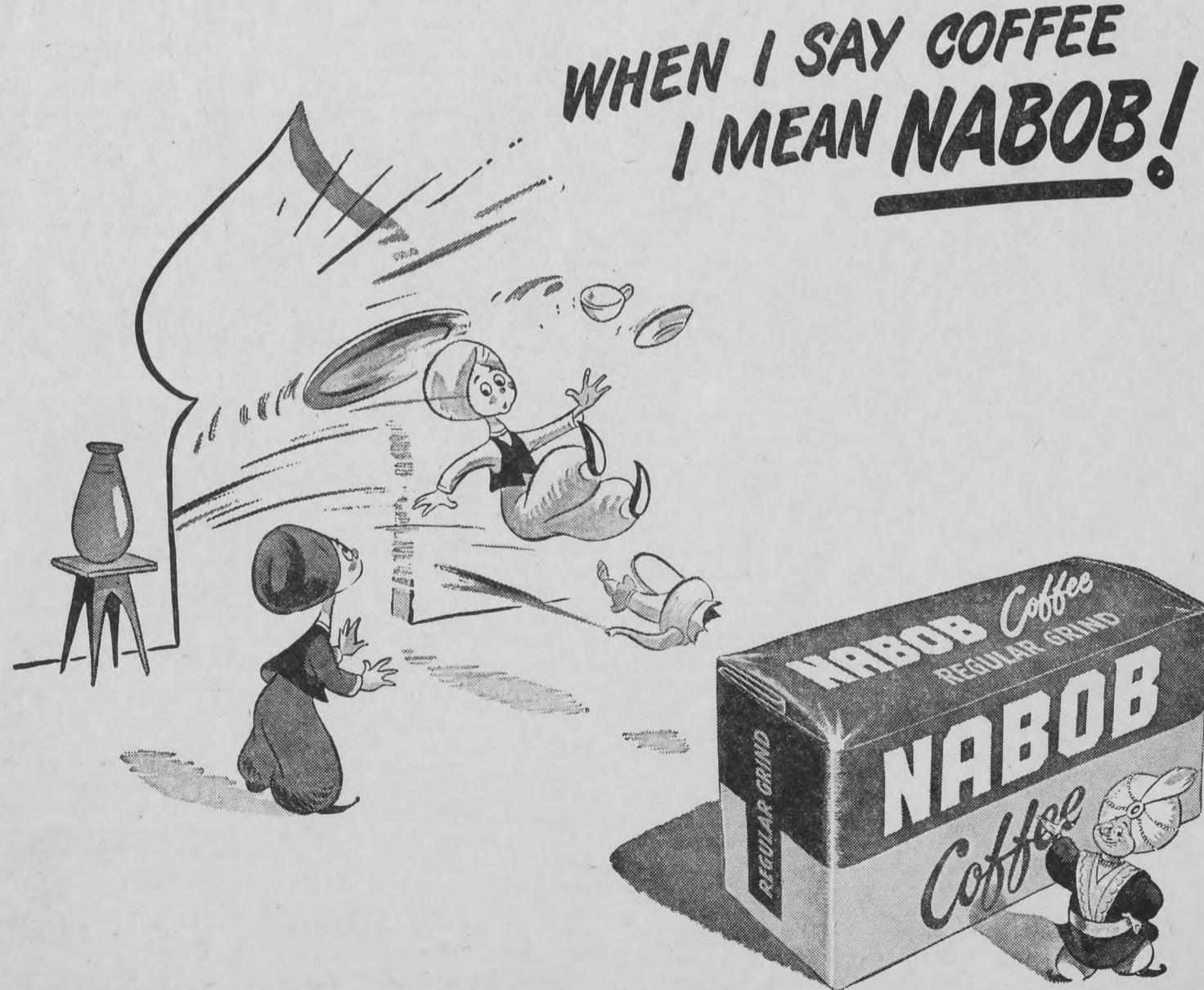
"What'll we do come cold weather?"

"For once, son, I don't rightly know," Cam said.

Ordinary folk sensed nothing of all this, nor ever would, except that they'd go out grouse hunting that fall at the usual time to the appointed place and for some mysterious reason return empty-handed, where in other years they'd filled their bags. But over in the Indian village the Micmacs knew what to expect. All summer the old men had talked of it. The Tenth Year of No Rabbits had come again, the great tidal wave of death in the forest. The tribe would lay by what fish and smoked meat they could against the inevitable lean time, but before winter was over, they knew, there'd be many a cinched belt among them, unless government stepped in to aid them.

TO BE CONTINUED.

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# The Countrywoman

**Canadian women travelling through Europe are extended both personal and official hospitality and especially welcomed as visitors from Canada**

by AMY J. ROE



*Group of Dutch people in national costume in one of the popular folk dances.*

the great and artistic men of his time; had had the applause and praise of thousands at his concerts. But always he had loved to come back to this home. He worked in a little studio-hut at the foot of a steep cliff, where he was rather inaccessible to visitors and family.

There was, he said, something touching about this house. In this atmosphere Grieg heard "melodies within a melody and poems within a poem." We were invited to picture the scene at that house on Grieg's 60th birthday when 150 guests gathered in his honor; to imagine the guests in the rooms and scattered about the lawn and Grieg at the piano, playing. We paused to gaze upon the rough-hewn rock which marks the spot where the great Norwegian composer was laid to rest in 1907.

As we walked down the narrow roadway, returning to the bus, the pianist and the newspaperman were by my side, chatting together in Norwegian. She turned and said: "We enjoyed playing and speaking to the ladies of your party today. There was some 'feeling' in that room this afternoon, which we just can't explain to ourselves but we both felt it." I pointed out that we too were country women and when the young man had spoken so effectively of Grieg's love of a quiet country spot, away from the crowds; of his garden and his desire to own a bit of land, he had touched a responsive chord in the hearts of his listeners.

We were graciously welcomed to tea afterwards at the home of Mr. Irminger, whose wife was already off on some pre-conference business. Our host quite charmed us with his thoughtfulness. Each of the four tables in the large rooms was centered with a circle of maple leaves. On one, was a maple leaf, which he had brought back 25 years ago on a visit to Canada. Present also was Miss Ina Strong, British Trade Representative for the Bergen District, the first woman to be appointed by Britain to such a post. She had previously been in charge of Personnel Department, of Foreign Affairs, London, and had taken over her new duties on January 1, 1950.

After leaving Canada, we were advised of a change in the scheduled itinerary. We were to cancel one night's hotel reservation at The Hague and to be entertained for 24 hours at Deventer, on our journey out of Copenhagen. Here we were welcomed on evening arrival by a group of Dutch women and taken by car to individual

farm homes in the surrounding area. As in Denmark, the members of our party had the experience of being overnight guests in homes, where the host and hostess were often not able to converse with them except through an interpreter. We got along astonishingly well and it was surprising and interesting how much we learned about Dutch farming and ways of life. We were intrigued with the fact that the baker, butcher and grocer called daily to take orders and make deliveries via a basket-bicycle. We explained that the farm woman's marketing was a more time-consuming operation at home. Our experience-gathering and farm sight-seeing were limited to the early morning hours as by 10:30 we were due to leave for Deventer for a day's program specially designed for our entertainment.

Accompanied by our hostesses and officers of the Overijssel provincial Country Women's Association, we travelled by bus, first to the Canadian Military Cemetery at Holten. We laid wreaths upon the central monument and stood in silence with a prayer in our hearts. We were saddened as we gazed upon the

white crosses, "standing row upon row" marking the resting place of Canada's sons who had laid down their lives in Holland. We were deeply touched by the evidences of care and planning given to this quiet field ringed round by dark pine. We were moved too, by the stories told of how individual Dutch families cared for the graves of our men.

The Burgomaster of Holten, Mr. W. H. Enklaar, a direct appointee of the Crown, spoke to us at the noon luncheon saying: "Ladies, dear Canadian friends. I am delighted to speak a few words to welcome you to our municipality of Holten. We appreciate that you have come to Holten, on your long trip through Europe. When tidings came that you were to visit us, we discussed what we could do for you in so short a time. There was one thing we must do and that was to bring you here. Our municipality has many ties with your country. We hold in our soil the bodies of so many brave Canadian soldiers, who have bought our freedom with their lives. It is with pleasure that we receive you now, here in our country and in our village. We see in you the representatives of that brave people, to whom we owe so much."

There were speeches from women representing the provincial organization, showing the growth of work and membership in the past 20 years. There are now approximately 35,000 members in Holland, in 420 divisions or local clubs. Mrs. Buursma de Yong vice-president, said in closing: "Canada is very dear to us and must remain so." There were fitting replies from Canadian women. Then we proceeded through a rainy afternoon to visit two farm homes. By this time we were all well acquainted. There was much laughter and exchanges of experience. We had become good friends and found that we had much in common. We chatted about the education of farm girls of Holland's Home Economics schools for rural girls, managed by local committees but with the teachers paid by the government. We were later to see one of these schools near The Hague.

We had tea in a spotlessly clean barn, with trestle tables set up to accommodate the crowd. Then we proceeded to another barn, where we saw a Dutch group in national dress complete with wooden shoes in a number of country dances.

We left on the evening train for The Hague. There we found Miss Julie Brinke waiting, with a full day's program for the morrow, including a visit to the flower, fruit and vegetable auction market.

**T**WO of the happy features of the overseas tour arranged by the Women's Institutes women, on their way to the Sixth Triennial Conference of the Associated Country Women of the World in Copenhagen, last September, were its official recognition and the hospitality extended. Recognized as a party of representative women, on its way to an international meeting of some importance, its members were formally invited to and received at Canadian embassies in Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Holland, France and at Canada House in London. This experience served to acquaint them with a number of Canada's leading representatives abroad and to give them some insight into the importance of Canada's trade and diplomatic relations with those countries. They learned firsthand, that the embassies, through their members and staff, stand ready to assist and befriend the Canadian traveller abroad, who may stand in need of information or help in time of trouble.

The hospitality extended was both official and warmly personal. It was heart-warming to be met at points of arrival in England, the Scandinavian countries, and Holland by groups of women representing rural organizations and made instantly to feel especially welcomed as visitors from Canada. In some instances, as in England, Norway, Denmark and Holland, there were invitations to stay at private homes. In others, hostess groups gave helpful advice and assistance in arranging sight-seeing tours and personally escorted the visitors to their hotels or to various functions arranged. The opportunity of meeting many country women, visiting farms, homes, viewing handicrafts, schools, places of historic and cultural significance; hearing the songs and music of other lands, was greatly appreciated.

**M**ORE than once the remark was made in our hearing: "We hope to show you something which you will remember." They succeeded well in doing that. We who made the tour, under such happy and hospitable circumstances have treasured and stirring memories and many mind pictures of the people met, places seen, words spoken and experiences shared.

There was, on a soft, rainy Sunday, the day of our arrival from England at Bergen, the visit to "Troldhaugen" (hill of the sprites or elves). We had been greeted at the wharf by women representing the Norwegian Housewives and Home Welfare Organizations and later were to have supper with them. A bus was waiting to transport the party to Edvard Grieg's old home. There stood his beloved piano, and on it a marble bust of the famous composer and a portrait of his beautiful, songstress wife, Nina. We sat quietly in the living room of that little house, while a blonde young woman, Laura Probst, played a few of Grieg's selections on the piano, which had once responded to the inspiration and touch of the master.

A young newspaperman, Sigmund Torteinson, talked to us about Grieg's great love of home, of the longing, which even the most adventurous feel at times, for some spot of ground of his own, a place to come back to from world travels. He had found it near Bergen, in his native Norway. Here he found the solitude he craved for creative work. Here he captured something of the very spirit of the North, of rugged Norway itself in his music. He had loved every nook; had let the garden grow wild, believing that it was greater in its freedom. Nina and Edvard Grieg had travelled to London, Paris, Rome, Lisbon and other leading cities; mixed with



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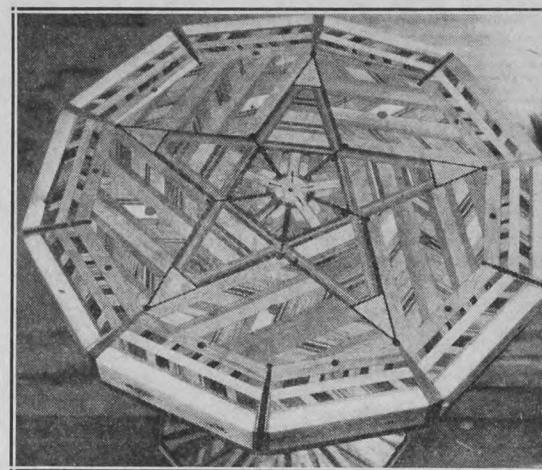
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## Hobbies on the Farm

Some of the interesting occupations which Canadians have found for themselves to fill in long winter evenings

by KERRY WOOD



The 5-pointed star design on Bill Curzon's inlaid table, containing many separate pieces of wood.

**W**INTERTIME is hobby time on Canadian farms for the farmer and his wife, plus their sons and daughters and the hired man. Menfolk favor woodworking above all other leisure-time pursuits, but their wives have much more varied interests that range from loom-weaving to skillful glove making with fine leathers, while lace work, plaster-casting, silk-screen pictures, and a score of other crafts all come in for a share of milady's enthusiasm. Youngsters do not usually confine their attentions to any one hobby-subject exclusively, but go completely overboard for a long list of notions that include pyrography or wood-burning, bird-box building, stamp collecting, linoleum block printing, model airplanes, plastics, and match-stick ornaments.

The men haven't a monopoly on woodworking these days. Recent surveys of evening classes in woodworking held in western cities and towns reveal that women show up for instruction almost as often as their male-folks. The type of woodwork that attracts both sexes more than any other form is the old but fascinating craft of inlay design. So perhaps both the farmer and his wife will be interested in the achievements of one inlay-worker, a former Westlock farmer who has since turned carpenter at Red Deer.

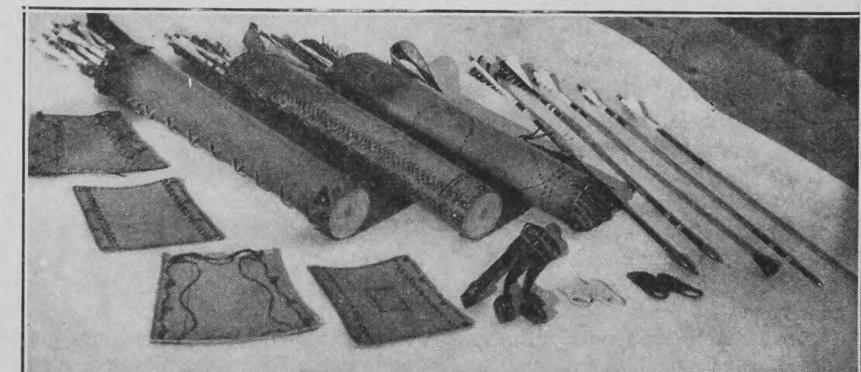
William B. Curzon has specialized on his inlay hobby for more than ten years, during that time turning out trays, checkerboards, lampstands, clock cases, cribbage boards, and ash trays cleverly ornamented with colorful inlay patterns. He has just finished his most ambitious project to date, a beautiful coffee table that required over 300 hours of patient work—if you can call hobby crafting by the tedious name of labor. Bill Curzon displays his table proudly, telling that there are 1,850 different pieces of

cedar, and poplar. A lot of imported woods were employed to add contrasting colors, mahoganies of various kinds, black walnut, purple amaranth, and ebonies, all contributing to the beauty of Bill's lovely table.

For eight long months Bill Curzon worked on his table during his spare time after supper, using as his tools a saw, plane, chisel, knife, plus two pint cans of good glue. The five-pointed star was his main pattern, and shows up repeatedly on the table along with the multiple-angle design so dear to inlay-workers' hearts. The finished project has attracted much interest among Mr. Curzon's neighbors, and already he has had many chances to sell the handsome piece of furniture. But Bill gave the table to his wife as an anniversary present.

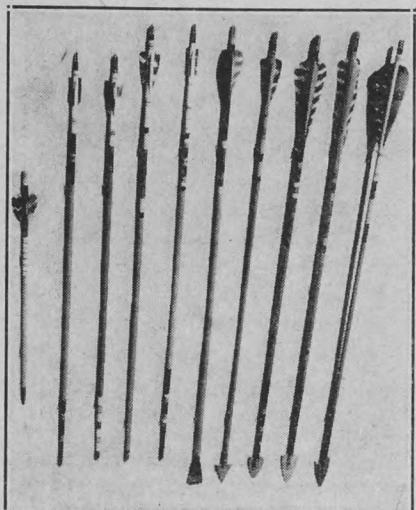
"I'm going to build a grandfather's clock, next," smiles Bill, picking up an attractive length of board and casting his eye appraisingly over its grain. "I plan to have ten thousand different pieces of wood in that clock, so the job will take a matter of time to complete. I estimate it'll be a two-year project, at least. But it's fun, from start to finish."

**B**ILL and Bruce McKenzie of the Medicine Hat district go in for one of the oldest crafts known to man, that of building archery tackle. The earliest Sanskrit writings mention archery, and there are frequent references to bows and arrows in the Christian Bible and in the ancient holy books of the Hindus, Buddhists, and the Persian Zenda-vesta. The oldest piece of stone sculpture in the world is that of an archer, according to Dr. Robert P. Elmer in his authoritative treatise on the subject. Stone arrow heads found on the farm lands of Canada are of comparatively recent manufacture, probably no more than 300 or 400 years old, but in other



Arrows, quivers, armguards, shooting gloves and finger protectors used by archers

parts of the world arrow heads have been found in certain geological stratas that confirm an age of over 30,000 years for these chipped stone arrow heads. And long before our early ancestors learned how to fashion stone arrow heads, it is more than likely that they used easier worked bone



*Some of the Flight, Target, Roving, and Small and Big Game arrows.*

heads, and prior to the bone-head period probably were content with fire-hardened wooden points.

Archery is an ancient craft, and Bill and Bruce McKenzie have a good time fashioning Old English longbows, American Buffalo bows, Dr. Hickman flatbows and the Nagler elliptical bow design. In addition to fancy reflexed and silk-backed bows made of lemonwood from Cuba, yew from Oregon, and Osage-orange from Missouri, the McKenzie boys turn out a great variety of arrow styles, using Port Orford cedar, Norway pine, Douglas fir, and white birch as their arrow woods. There are target arrows, roving arrows, field arrows, large and small game hunting arrows, as well as special long-range shooting arrows called Flights. But that isn't the whole of the craft by any means: they make thin but amazingly strong bow strings out of linen hemp, and fashion beautiful arrow carriers or quivers from assorted leathers, tooled and plain in both belt and back-carrying styles. Then there are skeleton shooting gloves, bow-arm protectors, and rye-straw targets and five-color target faces. Archery craft provides an all-round hobby.

And this ancient sport has many adherents in Canada today among young and old. As Thompson so charmingly phrased it: "So long as the new moon returns in heaven a bent, beautiful bow, so long will the fascination of archery keep hold of the hearts of men."

MARION is a 15-year-old lass with a honey-colored head of hair and a pair of serious grey eyes, and Marion's present hobby is building a flute. Yes, a flute—a wooden tin whistle that's been to college!

How Marion became interested in flutes concerns a favorite record radio program she was once listening to, and the disc jockey happened to put on a recording of the Shakespeare-Bishop song called "Lo, Here the Gentle Lark."

"Not 'hear,' you understand," Marion carefully explained. "But 'here.' There's quite a difference, isn't there?"

The charming flute prelude and obligato which graces that well-loved

song won Marion's approval, and sent her to the nearest encyclopedia in search of information on flutes. Becoming enthusiastic, Marion decided to make herself one.

"Most flutes are made of ebony, boxwood, and sometimes red cherry," Marion expounded. "They can also be made of metal, such as silver. Sometimes they use ivory, too. The oldest type of flute that we know today is the Old English form, which had seven holes that permitted a range of two octaves—if you blew easy on the lower notes and hard for the higher scale. But the flute used in the big symphony orchestras today is a German flute with six finger holes and from six to 12 keys for the semi-tones and a range of three octaves. Good flutes cost far more money than I can afford to spend, so I decided to make my own. But I didn't think I'd do very well, fussing with all those valves and key things, so I decided to make myself an Old English flute with seven holes. I'm using a piece of bamboo as my material, because I couldn't figure out a way to bore a long straight hole in a solid piece of wood. I bought a bamboo binder whip, and I've bored out the joint-pith and now I'm working on the end stoppers and the mouthpiece. I finished one flute, but it was a little, short one and didn't have a good tone. This time, I'm making an Old English flute 27 inches long, in the German style."

THE ladies have invaded a hobby field that used to be considered a wholly masculine pastime, that of fly-tying. There is a unique thrill in the creation of the delicate lures used in trout fishing, each fly tied according to strict patterns of color and shape to resemble some insect that hovers over bubbling streams wherein lurk the wary Loch Levin trout, the orange-bellied brook trout, or the purple-sided rainbows that are the finest fighters on the list. Fly patterns



*A close-up of a hand-tooled leather quiver made by Bill McKenzie.*

range all the way from the mundane grasshopper to the delightful pink lady, with black gnat, March brown, green sedge, fresh-water shrimp, and Mayflies all members of the more than 200 different patterns now used on this continent—every single pattern championed by some enthusiastic booster.

An elderly Calgary woman ties hundreds of flies every year for many of the sport stores in that trout-minded city, while there is a phenomenal 16-year-old girl in Oregon who has developed a sizable business out of fly-tying and now employs 12 adults to help her cater to her continent-wide clientele of anglers.

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Softness is so very important in a bathroom tissue and Purex is soft—especially soft—for safe, healthy, personal care. Purex is strong too—just right to assure firmness without irritation to sensitive skin.



# All the best

... in this glorious MAGIC Fruit Cake!

Bring it out proudly when friends and family congregate ... your Magic Christmas cake!

Sumptuous with fruits and nutmeats ... candied peel, pineapple, icing ... the most festive yet!

All year round, make your cakes tender and perfect-flavored with pure Magic Baking Powder.

No waste of costly ingredients—and Magic costs less than 1¢ per average baking!

## MAGIC CHRISTMAS CAKE

2 cups seedless raisins	1 cup cut-up pitted dates	1½ tsps. ground cinnamon
1 cup currants	½ cup cut-up candied	½ tsp. grated nutmeg
1½ cups separated seeded	pineapple or other	½ tsp. ground ginger
raisins	candied fruits	¼ tsp. ground mace
1½ cups drained red maraschino or candied	1 tbsp. finely-chopped	¼ tsp. ground cloves
cherries (or a mixture of	candied ginger	1 cup butter
red cherries and green	3 cups sifted pastry flour	1¼ cups lightly-packed
candied cherries)	or 2½ cups sifted hard-wheat flour	brown sugar
1 cup almonds	1½ tsps. Magic Baking	6 eggs
1½ cups slivered or	Powder	¼ cup molasses
chopped mixed candied	¾ tsp. salt	½ cup cold strong coffee
peels and citron		

Wash and dry the seedless raisins and currants. Wash and dry the seeded raisins, if necessary, and cut into halves. Cut cherries into halves. Blanch the almonds and cut into halves. Prepare the dates, peels and citron, candied pineapple or other fruits, and ginger. Sift together 3 times, the flour, Magic Baking Powder, salt, cinnamon, nutmeg, ginger, mace and cloves; add prepared fruits and nuts, a few at a time, mixing until fruits are separated and coated with flour. Cream the butter; gradually blend in the sugar. Add unbeaten eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition; stir in molasses. Add flour mixture to creamed mixture alternately with coffee, combining thoroughly after each addition. Turn batter into a deep 8-inch square cake pan that has been lined with three layers of heavy paper and the top layer greased with butter; spread evenly. Bake in a slow oven 300°, about 2½ to 3 hours. Let cake stand in its pan on a cake cooler until cold. Store in a crock, or wrap in waxed paper and store in a tin. A few days before cake is to be cut, top with almond paste and ornamental icing; just before cutting, cake may be decorated attractively.



## Cranberry Desserts

New ways with an old favorite

EVER since the Pilgrim women discovered that these tart, bright-red berries were good to eat, cranberries have been included in our special winter menus. Perhaps it was by accident that cranberries were first served with turkey, but they go so well together that it has become the custom and cranberries are now a part of every Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner.

Cranberry uses have been extended until they include such desserts as cranberry and apple pie, an upside-down cake, and a shortcake as well as the old standby, cranberry jelly. For something a little different use cranberries instead of raisins in quick breads and muffins. They are delicious.

### Cranberry Shortcake

Line a buttered mold or large fruit bowl with slices of bread, one inch thick. Spoon in hot cranberry sauce until the bowl is no more than three-quarters full. Top with more slices of bread. Weight down with a saucer or small plate and an added weight. Cool for 24 hours. Unmold and slice. Serve with whipped cream.

Individual molds can be used. Have sufficient juice to soak the bread well. Excess juice will rise over the weight and can be poured off before serving.

To make cranberry sauce boil 2 c. water and 2 c. sugar together for 5 minutes. Add 4 c. cranberries and cook until the berries pop—about 5 minutes more.

### Cranberry Upside-down Cake

2 c. cranberries	1 c. sifted flour
½ c. boiling water	2 tsp. baking powder
1⅔ c. sugar	¼ tsp. salt
1 T. cornstarch	1 tsp. vanilla
1 egg	¼ c. butter
½ c. milk	

Mix together the cranberries, 1 c. sugar, cornstarch and water. Bring to a boil and cook 5 minutes. Pour into a cake pan lined with waxed paper. Sift flour, baking powder and salt together. Add vanilla to the butter and cream well with the remaining sugar. Add egg and beat until mixture is light and fluffy. Add flour and milk alternately to batter, stirring until blended. Pour over cranberries. Bake 45 minutes in 350° F. oven. Turn upside down on a warm platter. Serve warm with whipped cream.

### Steamed Cranberry Pudding

1 c. flour	¼ c. melted shortening
½ tsp. salt	½ c. milk
1 tsp. soda	½ c. molasses
½ c. sugar	1½ c. chopped
1 c. fine bread crumbs	cranberries
1 egg, beaten	

Sift together flour, salt, soda and sugar; mix in bread crumbs. Add shortening, egg, milk and molasses. Stir until well blended. Then add cranberries. Pour into a greased mold; fill two-thirds full. Tie over mold two layers each of waxed and brown paper. Steam 2½ hours. If tops are moist place puddings in 350° F. oven for 10 minutes to dry. Serve with hard sauce.

### Cranberry Nut Bread

1 c. cranberries	½ c. sugar
¼ c. sugar	½ c. chopped walnuts
2 c. sifted flour	Grated rind of 1 orange
3 tsp. baking powder	1 egg
1 tsp. salt	1 c. milk
2 T. melted butter	

Chop cranberries; mix in sugar. Sift together dry ingredients; add walnuts and orange rind; stir to coat nuts with flour. Combine egg, milk and butter; blend into dry ingredients, stirring just enough to make a smooth batter. Fold in sweetened cranberries. Pour in greased 9x4-inch loaf pan, lined with wax paper. Bake in moderate oven (350° F.) 1 hour.

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CHRISTMAS!



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BABY'S daily movements are something of which absolutely accurate track must be kept. When he misses, something must be done at once. Constipation is serious for baby.

Mrs. John T. Reid of Hespeler, Ont., has this to say: "Having had seven children and having used Baby's Own Tablets for all seven can say they are the best and gentlest regulator for children. During teething Baby's Own Tablets were a boon to me as they cleared up at once any digestive disturbance or fretfulness."

Equally effective for simple fever, teething troubles, upset stomach and other minor ailments of babyhood.

Quick in their action. Sweet-tasting—easily crushed to a powder, if desired. No "sleepy" stuff—no dulling effect. Get a box today. Sick ness so often strikes in the night. 29 cents. Money back if not satisfied.

# Holiday Specials

Last-minute baking ideas to add to the holiday bill of fare

by LILLIAN VIGRASS

**C**HISTMAS just wouldn't be Christmas without a generous supply of extra-special baking on hand. Here are some last-minute suggestions for family treats and to offer friends and neighbors who drop in with good wishes during the holiday season. They are easy to prepare and will make delicious eating throughout the holiday season.

The plum pudding, unlike the original, very rich Christmas pudding, should be made only a few days before Christmas. If you are serving a large number of people, double the quantity of ingredients and increase the steaming time. The ice cream does not require stirring during the freezing period if the cream is whipped and the egg-whites beaten until very light and fluffy before they are added to the custard mixture.

Santa Claus and Christmas tree cookies will make extra special, last-minute gifts. They can be cut from the thinly rolled cook'd dough with special cutters or with a sharp knife, using a paper pattern. Dress them up with simple icings, tinted with vegetable coloring, and trimmings of dried fruit, peel, nuts, chocolate, coconut and small candies.

The shortbread, baked in a new glass pie plate, wrapped in colorful cellophane and tied with gay ribbons, makes a very special gift. Or include several pieces in the assortment of cakes and cookies you are sending a friend.

## Shortbread

½ lb. soft butter	Pinch of salt
2/3 c. lightly packed brown sugar	Cherries and nutmeats for decoration (approx.)
2 c. sifted flour	

Cream butter until very fluffy; gradually beat in sugar and salt. Beat in flour. Turn out on board and knead in flour until cracks appear on surface of the dough. Pat in a thick layer into an ungreased layer cake pan or pie plate. Flute the edges, prick top and decorate with halves or sections of candied cherries and with nutmeats. Bake in a very

slow oven (275° F.) until set but not brown. This will take an hour or more, depending on the depth of the dough.

## Plum Pudding

½ c. currants	½ tsp. baking soda
½ c. seeded raisins	½ tsp. salt
½ c. seedless raisins	1 tsp. cinnamon
¼ c. mixed peel	½ tsp. mace
½ c. sliced blanched almonds	¼ tsp. each cloves, allspice and ginger
½ c. brown sugar	½ c. finely minced suet
¾ c. sifted flour	1 tsp. lemon juice
½ c. each grated raw carrot, potato and apple	

Wash and dry currants and raisins; separate seeded raisins. Add peel, almonds and lemon rind. Measure flour; sift with baking soda, salt and spices. Add brown sugar and suet, then the fruit and nuts. Mix thoroughly. Add lemon juice, carrot, potato and apple. Combine well and pour into a greased mold leaving at least 1½ inches at top. Steam, covered, for 3 hours. Resteam at least one hour before serving.

## Christmas Cookies

½ c. butter	2 c. flour
1 c. sugar	2 tsp. baking powder
1 egg	½ tsp. vanilla
½ c. milk	
½ tsp. salt	

Cream butter; add sugar gradually. Add egg, mix thoroughly. Sift flour with the salt and baking powder; add to the mixture alternately with the milk. Add vanilla. Use enough extra flour to make a stiff dough. Roll as thin as possible and cut in desired shapes with special cutters or a sharp knife, using a paper pattern. Bake in a moderate oven for about ten minutes (375° F.).

## Ice Cream

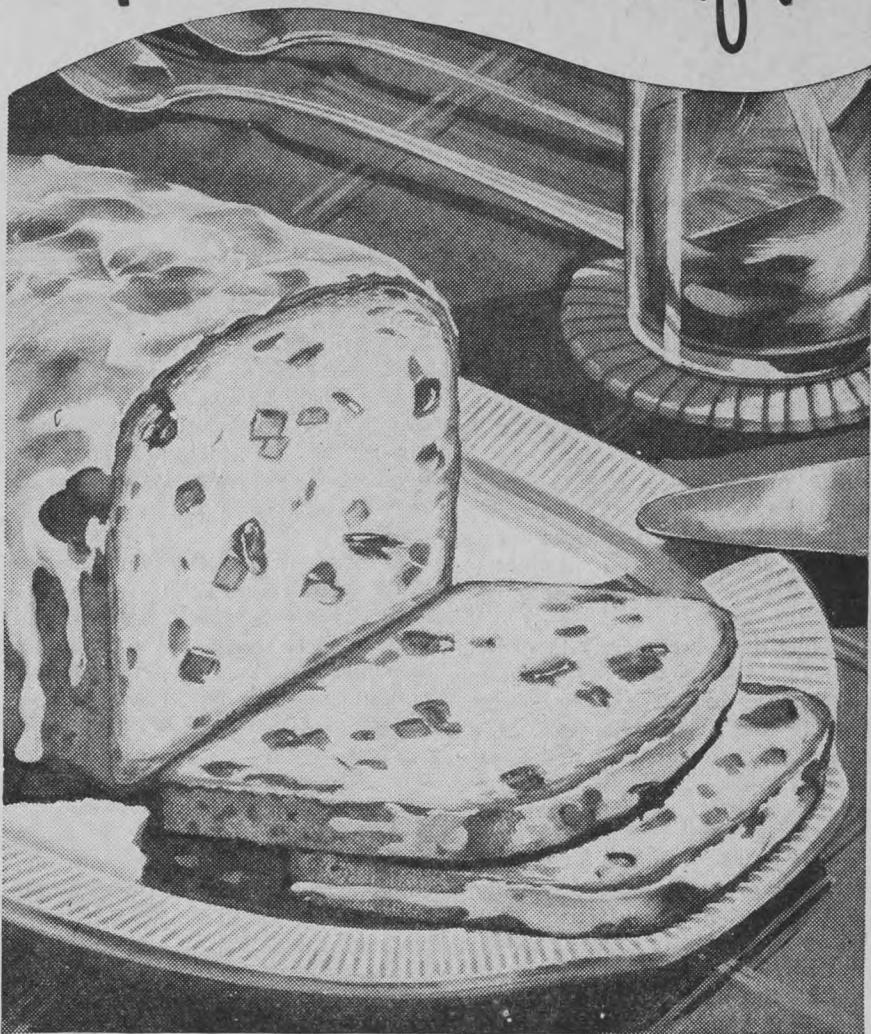
2 c. light cream	½ tsp. nutmeg
2 eggs	¼ tsp. salt
¾ c. sugar	1 c. heavy cream
1 T. vanilla	

Beat egg yolks; add them to the light cream with ½ c. sugar, nutmeg and vanilla. Place outside to freeze until just firm. Add salt to egg white; beat stiff. Whip the heavy cream. Carefully fold into frozen mixture the remaining sugar, egg whites and whipped cream. Continue freezing until firm. No mechanical freezer is needed. Serves 8-10.



An assortment of dainty, homemade sweets makes a thoughtful gift.

# Frosty fruit loaf!



## So light and luscious—made with marvellous new fast DRY yeast!

• This is the kind of treat that makes men-folks wave their arms and say: "When will you bake some more?"

And you can plan plenty more sumptuous yeast bakes, once you have in your pantry a supply of the wonderful new Fleischmann's DRY Yeast!

Yes, this grand new yeast keeps fresh and full-strength on your pantry shelf. Unlike old-fashioned perishable yeast, it never lets you down through loss of

strength. Keeps vital and active, till you're ready to bake!

If you bake at home, you can really go to town now with hot rolls, buns, desserts, and bread! No change in recipes: one envelope of the new Dry yeast equals one cake of fresh yeast. Get several weeks' supply of Fleischmann's Royal Fast Rising Dry Yeast and make this tempting Frosty Fruit Loaf tomorrow sure!

### FROSTY FRUIT LOAF

Makes 3 Loaves

Measure into large bowl

2/3 cup lukewarm water

2 teaspoons granulated sugar

and stir until sugar is dissolved.

Sprinkle with contents of

2 envelopes Fleischmann's

Royal Fast Rising Dry Yeast

Let stand 10 minutes, THEN stir well.

In the meantime, scald

2/3 cup milk

Remove from heat and stir in

1/2 cup granulated sugar

1-1/4 teaspoons salt

6 tablespoons shortening

Cool to lukewarm and add to yeast mixture. Stir in

3 well-beaten eggs

Stir in

3 cups once-sifted bread flour

and beat until smooth; stir in

3 cups mixture of washed and

dried seedless raisins, quar-

tered candied cherries and

slivered mixed candied peels

Work in

3 cups more once-sifted

bread flour

Turn out on lightly-floured board and knead dough lightly until smooth and elastic. Place in greased bowl, brush top with melted butter or shortening. Cover and set

dough in warm place, free from draught. Let rise until doubled in bulk. Punch down dough and divide into 3 equal portions; form into smooth balls. Shape into loaves; place in well-greased bread pans (4½" x 8½", top inside measure and 2¾" deep). Grease tops. Cover and let rise until doubled in bulk. Bake in moderate oven, 350°, 45-50 minutes. Cool and ice with Plain Icing.

### PLAIN ICING

Combine 1/2 cup sifted icing sugar

2 teaspoons milk

1/8 teaspoon vanilla

and beat until smooth.



CANDLES and Christmas go together so you may find candle wax has dripped onto your best cloth during the festive meal. Scrape as much as possible from the surface with the back of a dinner knife. Then soak the spot in cleaning solvent or other non-inflammable fluid.

Never use gasoline under any circumstance. Even with non-inflammable cleaners take no chances. Work in a room where there is no fire, no burning lamp, no lighted gas iron. Have the doors and windows open to provide a draught. In good weather it is safer out of doors.

As you work, avoid inhaling any of the vapor from the fluid, as cases of poisoning from the fumes have been reported. Use only enough to remove the wax. A good plan is to pour a little into a small bowl, and to let the spot soak for a few minutes.

If color remains after the wax is removed rub soap on the mark and wash in hot water. If that does not do the trick, use a good brand of chlorine bleach for a cloth of linen, cotton or rayon.

Follow the directions on the label, or make up a solution of one tablespoon bleach to each quart of water. Measure carefully and do not let the material bleach for longer than 15 minutes. Rinse at least three times to remove every trace of the chemical.

SOME types of lipstick are hard to remove from serviettes unless they are treated before laundering. Rub lard on the marks, and wash in very hot, soapy water. When color still persists, let the material dry and apply solvent as described above, taking care not to inhale the fumes.

# Holiday Stains

**How to remove spots from your best linens**

by MARGARET M. SPEECHLY

If you discover marks made by juices from the roast, scrape the surface with the back of a dinner knife to get rid of the grease. Soak in cool water to remove the protein. The rest will come out in the wash. Avoid these stains in future by spreading a large serviette in front of the carver, and put a piece of clear plastic at the place of each small person.

Red stains from cranberry sauce or beets will vanish if you stretch the cloth over a bowl and pour on boiling water from a height. Use spring clothes pegs to secure the material. Any red or blue fruit stains should be removed before washing as soap is sure to turn them into ugly brown marks.

Mustard pickles containing tumeric leave vivid yellow stains which are hard to remove. Soak for a few minutes in cool water and then in an ammonia solution made from one tablespoon ammonia to one cup of water.

Plain mustard can be removed by scraping the surface with the back of a knife and rubbing glycerine into the spot. If color remains, use a bleach. Make up a solution of one tablespoon chlorine bleach to a quart of water. Let the material soak for 15 minutes or until the color has disappeared. Rinse at least three times.

If ice cream was on the menu, look for stains before putting the cloth to the wash because there is likely to be

protein in the form of milk or egg which would be hardened by heat. Soak in cold water first and then use mild soap and warm water to deal with the cream.

If there was fruit in the ice cream, give it the cool water soak as above, but do not use soap. Stretch the cloth over a bowl and pour plenty of boiling water through the material. Peach and cherry stains are exceptions to the rule, as heat sets these stains. Instead of pouring on boiling water, rub glycerine into the stain.

Salad dressings need similar care as they contain egg and fat such as cream or oil. Follow the cool soak with warm water and mild soap. If oiliness remains let the cloth dry and soak the spot in cleaning fluid. This is important because oily stains may turn up as brown marks after ironing, if all the fat is not removed.

Soft drinks or wine, when fresh, respond to a cool soak followed by washing in warm suds. Old stains that have turned brown need to be bleached using one tablespoon of chlorine bleach to each quart of water. Let soak for 15 minutes and rinse at least three times.

Chocolate in the form of candy can be scraped off and the rest will come out in the wash. With chocolate syrup or sauce, sponge the spot with cleaning fluid before washing. If the color still persists, bleach as above.

Water spilled on colored tissue paper is likely to leave bright stains, but these usually come out in washing. If not, treat with bleach as above.

Most of the colored linens and cottons sold today for table use are vat-dyed, which means that the colors will not fade if bleached according to directions. If you are not certain about yours, try bleaching a serviette first, immersing it only for a very short time. Rinse three times at least, let it dry and compare it with other pieces. If there is no loss of color you can try the same treatment for stains on the cloth.

Mercurochrome from junior's cut finger may appear on his bib or on the tablecloth. The sooner the stain is removed the better because it is harder to dislodge when dry. Rinse in cool water and sponge with denatured alcohol to remove the rest. If necessary let the stain soak in the alcohol. Wash in warm suds and rinse. If color still remains use a bleach as above.

Speaking of denatured alcohol reminds me that it is the only known thing, at the moment, for taking out marks made by ball point pens. Don't let the owner of one of these pens show off his gift before the cloth is removed.

Time spent in removing stains is well spent, especially in the case of your best damask which is brought out only on festive occasions such as Christmas or weddings. Lots of marks are no trouble at all when fresh, but drying sets them permanently. Look out for fats and oils which may hardly be noticeable, but under the heat of an iron they turn into ugly brown marks which can only be removed by bleaching.

## Try this all-time favorite to-day... ROBIN HOOD DATE-FILLED OAT COOKIES

### ROBIN HOOD DATE-FILLED OAT COOKIES

#### PASTRY

- 1 cup shortening (part butter)
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 cup milk
- 2 cups Robin Hood Oats (always remember, Robin Hood Oats are pan-dried to give that keener, nutty flavor!)
- 1 1/4 cups sifted Robin Hood Flour
- 3 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

Cream the shortening; gradually add sugar, and cream together until very light.

Add the milk and then the Robin Hood Oats.

Sift flour (be sure it's Robin Hood, the guaranteed\* all-purpose flour); measure, add baking powder and salt to the flour; sift again and add to the first mixture. Dough should be very soft.

Chill the dough thoroughly.

Roll dough 1/8 inch thick on a

lightly floured board; cut into round cookies.

Bake on a well greased tin in a moderate oven (350°F.).

Baking time: 12 to 15 minutes.

When the cookies are cool, put together with date filling.

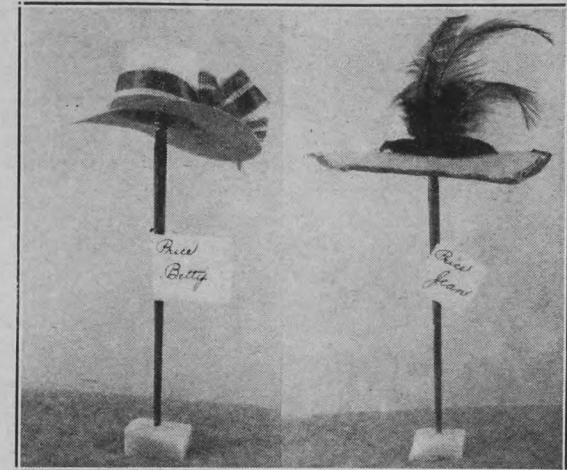
#### DATE FILLING

- |                        |               |
|------------------------|---------------|
| 1 lb. dates            | 2/3 cup water |
| 1 teaspoon lemon juice | 1/2 cup sugar |
- Wash and remove stones from dates. Add water and sugar. Cook together until thick, stirring well. Add lemon juice and when cool use as a filling.
- Yield: 4 dozen delicious filled cookies.
- Serve: Over and over again — by family request!

\*Certificate with every bag guarantees your money back plus 10% if you're not entirely satisfied.



# High Hat Place Cards



Two samples simply made as described.

A PLACE CARD millinery display will help any party get off to a good start whether it be at Christmas, New Year's or any season throughout the year.

And best of all, these pretty little bonnets are not difficult to make and may be as gay and elaborate as your scrap bag will allow. First assemble your materials. Small bits of silk, lace, ribbon, flowers, veiling and feathers; even the ribbon bows and metallic paper from last year's greeting cards or parcels will do. Have mucilage and some plain or colored construction paper. The rest will suggest itself as you proceed with your hats.

The smallest size ramekin cups, the kind restaurants use for a spoonful serving of jam, make very suitable crowns and may be purchased for a few cents a dozen. Leave the ramekin plain or cover it with lace or silk to match the brim.

Now cut a brim, 4 or 5 inches in diameter, from the colored paper. Mark the center. Set the ramekin crown directly in the center of the brim and trace a line where it rests to mark the head hole. Cut a small opening and slash back to the crown line. Now turn the slashed points up and sew the brim to the crown. If

*Make your own amusing table favors for that special party*

by EFFIE BUTLER

colored paper has been used no extra coloring will be necessary. If you have used white or plain brown wrapping paper you may wish to tint the brim with water colors or drape it with lace or silk to harmonize with the crown.

Let your fingers create the most striking hats you can imagine. A red feather on a green model will

catch the eye. A few strands from an old feather will make a luxurious willow plume for one of these miniature chapeaux. An edging of lace on a pink brim with a tiny spray of roses will give a decided party air. Add a pale pink plume and you will have something very attractive.

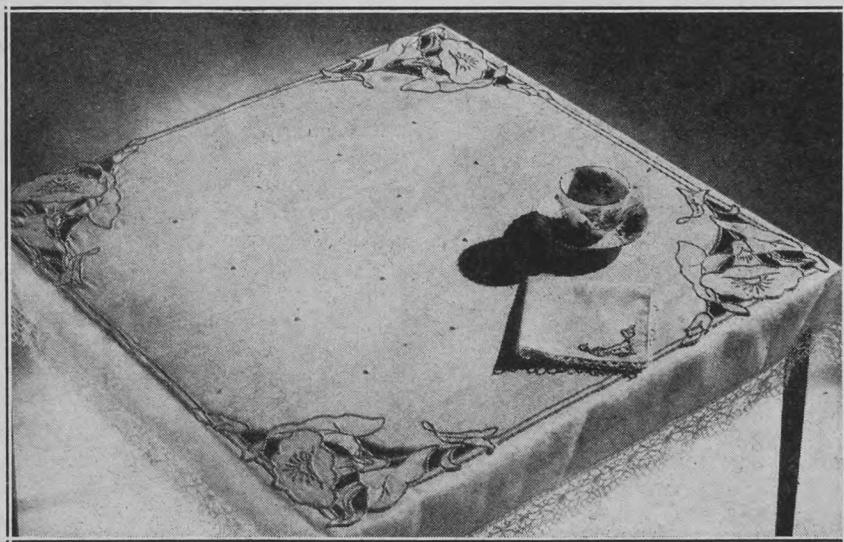
Don't stick to picture hats. A plain sailor and a few toques and tricorne shapes will add variety. If gentlemen are to be included in the party make them black silk top hats and fedoras.

The price tag on any hat is always an item of interest and amusement. These may be small slips of paper attached by a thread and in this case will serve also as name cards. Add to each a guest's name, Betty, Jean, etc.

The hats may be laid on the table with the price tag showing or displayed before each cover on a small stand. Sucker sticks or short knitting needles stuck in an inch square base of wax, clay, or raw potato, which will dry off in a few hours, make suitable stands.

Set any number of these attractive place cards around your table and the first few minutes of your party will hum with lively chatter. Pleased smiles and admiring glances will be cast in the hostess' direction.

## Morning Glory Cutwork Luncheon Set



Design No. 834.

Cutwork is always popular with women who like to do fine embroidery and admire lovely linens. For that special trousseau or wedding gift; for your own home and for hope chests, we think you will find this design interesting. Can be worked in one color, if desired. Design No. 834. Stamped on 54-inch ivory linen (the illustration shows it on 36-inch) \$3.75. Matching 12-inch serviettes, 25 cents each. Threads 40 cents extra. Stamped on 36-inch white embroidery linen the cloth and four napkins are \$3.25. Embroidery needles are five cents per package. Send order to The Country Guide Needlework Dept., Winnipeg, Man.



## - a beautiful SINGER Sewing Machine!

**Perhaps the only decoration** will be a bright red bow perched on top of it . . . or it might even be all done up in colored paper in the clumsy, loving way men have of wrapping important gifts. It doesn't really matter.

The thing that counts is the look of pleasure on her face as she reads the card . . . the little smile as suddenly she realizes that at last this beautiful new SINGER\* Sewing Machine is all her very own. Christmas is complete!

**Some men don't realize** how easy it actually is to buy a new SINGER. Some men don't know, for example, that prices start as low as \$89.50. Or that they can place a small down payment . . . take immediate delivery . . . then pay

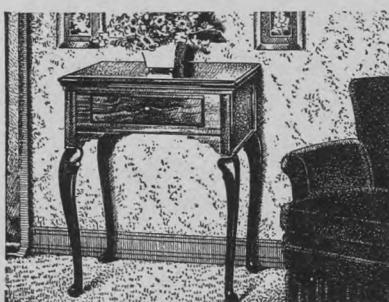
the balance in easy monthly terms. Or about the liberal trade-in allowance on old sewing machines.

And remember, a SINGER Sewing Machine continues to give long after the tree has been taken down, long after other gifts have been broken or used up or thrown away! Your new SINGER will give you an entire lifetime of dependable, money-saving sewing!

Make this a SINGER Christmas! Send for your illustrated SINGER catalogue today!



\***For your protection** SINGER sells and services its sewing machines only through SINGER SEWING CENTERS, identified by the Red "S" on the window.



• Cabinet Electrics — include the Queen Anne (illustrated), console and desk models.



• Smooth-stitching treadles — modern, time-saving sewing with minimum effort!

## SINGER SEWING CENTERS

SINGER IS THE ONLY SEWING MACHINE MADE IN CANADA — BY CANADIAN WORKMEN — OF CANADIAN MATERIALS



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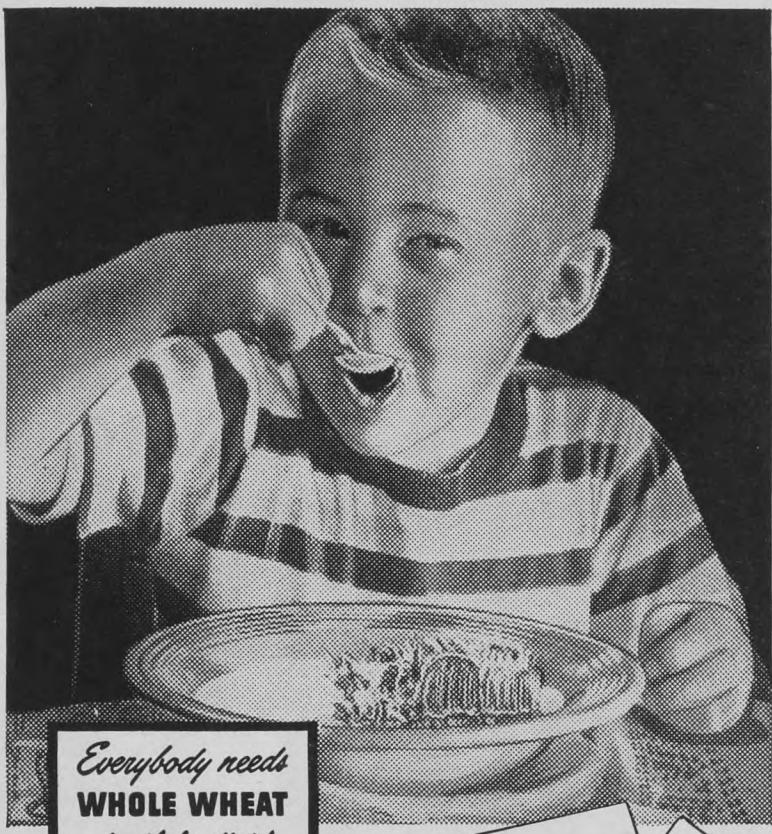
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## Your Beauty Problems

*Facing the holidays with better looks can make a merrier season*

by LORETTA MILLER



*Beautiful Ann Blythe, of Universal Pictures, has brows arched exactly right to emphasize contour of her features.*

IT'S the little beauty problems that spell major disaster to attractiveness! It's being able to check rough hands or facial skin; knowing how to overcome unmanageable hair, and being able to cope with every little upset to good looks that puts any girl at ease and lets her know that she is responsible for her appearance.

Every problem that makes one less attractive should be handled immediately. While it is true that an occasional disturbance corrects itself, it is more often more likely that intelligent care given at once will prevent the minor problem becoming major. With this in mind your beauty editor will answer a few letters which have come to her desk.

**Question:** I am the mother of four girls, each one overweight. In fact both their father and I are much too heavy. I'm wondering if you could help reduce the whole family. My daughters have oily skin too and they are getting to the age where they want to use makeup. Do you think they should be allowed to use makeup? I want you to decide this question as I am sure they will do whatever you suggest. The Harper Ladies.

**Answer:** In this fast-moving world where everything and everybody moves at a speedy pace, it seems that girls are using makeup earlier in life than they used to. If your daughters are more than 16 or 17 years of age, I think they will be more comfortable with their friends if they are permitted to use a little color on their lips. While it may not be wise to use eye makeup, it's well to groom the brows and lashes by brushing them with a little brow brush. The brushing removes any traces of powder and puts each little eye-framing hair in place. Now about your major problem which is overweight. Perhaps your entire family is too well fed. As the head of the household, it might be well for you to eliminate as many fat, starchy, fried and greasy foods as possible. Wrong eating habits may also be responsible for oily skin, so that while a better balanced diet would prove reducing to the family it would also do much to overcome oily skin. In addition to revising the eating habits, it is well to emphasize the importance of thorough soap and water washings every morning and every night. The use of a well-lathered washcloth rub-

bed vigorously over the face, especially the oily regions, and a thorough rinse with cool water, will do much to overcome oily skin. Let me add that I don't think it would be advisable for the girls to go in for a showy display of makeup. The natural skin tones, emphasized by perhaps a little lip rouge is the beauty fashion today.

**Question:** My brows are extremely wide and because of their dark hair it seems that my eyes appear smaller than they really are. I have tried tweezing out some of the brow hairs but I find this operation quite painful. What can you suggest?—Miss G. L. M.

**Answer:** After brushing the brows with a little brush (which is really a small-sized toothbrush) moisten a washcloth, small cloth or pad of cotton with very hot water and place it over the brow for a second or two. Remove it and tweeze out two or three hairs. Then just as quickly replace the hot pad to the area just tweezed. The moist heat seems to remove discomfort at once. To make the eyes appear even larger than they are be sure to remove the excess hairs from the lower line of the brows. Run the brush over the brows every few minutes in order to keep the brow line properly arched and to enable the removal of only the out-of-line hairs. Let the brows form a graceful arch, with their outer tips pointing slightly upward for most flattering effect on the eyes. Brush on a little petroleum jelly, after putting on your makeup, in order to remove powder and make the eye-framing hairs glisten.

**Question:** I had two permanent waves last summer and my hair is very dry. I really need another permanent now but hesitate to have it because of the condition of my hair. Do you think the permanents brought about this dryness? Perhaps I should tell you that I use a blonde rinse on my hair as it is quite dark, naturally, and I look much better as a blonde.

**Answer:** I'm quite sure it is not the permanents which have caused the dryness, but rather the too frequent use of the hair bleach and lack of sufficient care. The bleach itself will not harm the hair unless used to excess and ordinary daily care of the hair neglected. Be sure to brush your hair vigorously (and I mean vigorously) for at least ten minutes every day. It isn't advisable to brush it this length of time all at once, but divide it into two or three thorough brushings. Also, try to avoid an overlapping of the bleach by using it only on the dark hairs close to the scalp and not as an all-over rinse. If a permanent is properly given and the hair given intelligent care, there is no reason why one shouldn't have four or more permanents each year.

Now that cold weather has blown in, be sure to use plenty of good soothing lotions on face and hands. Smooth camphor ice, petroleum jelly or any regular corrective aid over lips both before and after exposure to the cold. Keep facial skin clean; brush the hair well every day, and try to eat a balanced diet. All these help correct minor problems before they develop into major disturbances.

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No. 758—Two entirely different aprons are included in this pattern. Have one in a workaday print, the other in a cotton satin. Sizes 12, 16 and 20 years; 30, 34, 38 and 42-inch bust. Size 16 requires 2½ yards 35-inch fabric; ½ yard 35-inch contrasting. Price 25 cents.

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No. 794—A gown pretty enough for a trousseau, with its inset waistband, ruffled shoulder line and banded decolletage. Sizes 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20 years; 32, 34, 36, 38 and 40-inch bust. Size 16 requires 2½ yards 39-inch material, 1 yard 35-inch lace, 2¾ yards ruffling. Price 35 cents.

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No. 800—Make this girl's gown in a red flannel for winter or in a grab-bag print trimmed with cotton lace. Has a round yoke and a soft, full skirt. Collar pattern included. Sizes 6, 8, 10, 12 and 14 years. Size 8 requires 2½ yards 35-inch material, 1¼ yards trim. Price 25 cents.

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758



THIS was Alberta's big year in the cereal honors classes at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair. Her farmers carried off three world championships and three reserves. Of the four world championships in wheat, oats, rye and barley, only one world championship and one reserve escaped Alberta. Both of these went to Albert Kessel, Rosetown, Saskatchewan, who carried off the world barley championship and the reserve rye championship. Mr. Kessel was last year's world champion in the rye class and this year also won the grand championship in flax (not a world championship class).

Most unusual win this year was that of Ricky Sharpe, 13-year-old member of the Drumheller Junior Grain Club, who not only won the junior wheat honors for the second year in succession, in a class of 51 entries, but took the world wheat championship as well — the first time this has ever been achieved by a junior grain club member. To really fix the world wheat honors in the Drumheller area this year, Howard Roppel, a member of the Rockyford Junior Grain Club,

## Albertans Win Cereal Honors

*Win three of four world championships and reserves*



Howard Roppel

Ricky Sharpe

made sure of the reserve wheat championship. Both exhibited Marquis.

In the oats class, John Eliuk, Hairy

Hill, Alberta, exhibited Victory oats and won the world oats crown, having first won similar honors at the Inter-

national Hay and Grain Show, in Chicago, in 1948. Reserve oats champion at Toronto was Matt B. Schnerr, of Sangudo, Alberta.

World rye champion was Chris Morck, who has farmed at Dickson, about 15 miles west of Innisfail, since 1917. He won with a sample of a variety which he believes to be Pictus, some of which he brought from Denmark following a visit in 1947.

To complete the list of three world championships and three reserves for Alberta this year, the reserve championship in barley was awarded to Thomas E. Brown of Cassils, Alberta.

OF all the winnings at the Royal this year, Ricky Sharpe's is perhaps the most spectacular. This is due partly to the glamour which surrounds a world wheat championship in a country where wheat is so important as in Canada, partly to the fact that the winner is a grade seven school boy, who was already a veteran of three years in the Junior Grain Club, partly to the fact that in the junior class of 51 entries, all but three (12, 29, 30) of 37 prize winners were from

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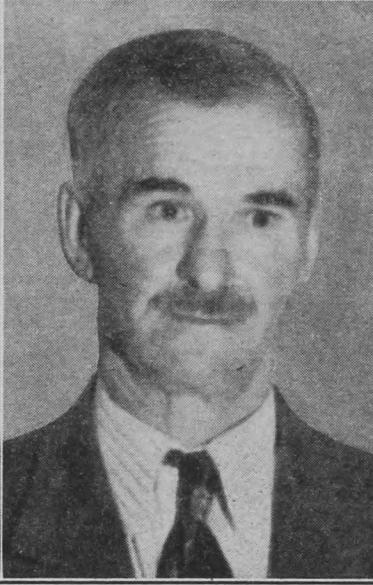
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**BLUE RIBBON**  
BAKING POWDER  
DOUBLE ACTION

Alberta, and partly to the fact that Ricky's sample evidently won by a minute amount over his closest competitor, Howard Roppel, who had beaten him in the provincial show. The latter, who is a student at the University of Alberta, is already a veteran in Alberta grain club work, has probably won more junior grain championships than any other Alberta grain club member, and was this year awarded highest honors by the Department of Agriculture in grain plot proficiency.

It is also of no little interest to note that nationality is no bar, either to good farming, or to championship honors. Mr. Morck came to Canada in 1906 from Denmark, and Mr. Eliuk from the Ukraine a quarter century ago. The Ropells are an outstanding Rockyford farm family and Ricky Sharpe represents the third generation of Sharps in the Munson district, his grandfather having moved from Napinee, Ontario, to settle there in 1916.



Chris Morck



John Eliuk

## Meadow Lake

Continued from page 8

located at Barnes Crossing on the Beaver River. It is believed that this ranch was started about 1914, and on it Mr. Campbell now runs around 150 head of cattle. To all of these men I am indebted for much of the information which has made this article possible.

The Meadow Lake Agricultural Society is a very active institution. Among its many activities this year was the erection of a \$2,500 barn on the fair grounds, to facilitate the holding of a calf club sale and show, on June 7. There are six calf clubs in the area supervised by Mr. Young, all of them raising baby beef. Four of these were organized in 1949, and another in 1947, the first year Mr. Young was in the area. The clubs are located at Meadow Lake, Dorintosh, Loon Lake, Makwa, Morin Creek and Loon River. At the June sale, 66 club calves, plus six supplied locally, brought an average of \$29.05 per hundred pounds. Several large buyers were present, but about two-thirds of the lot were purchased by Phil Katz of Loon Lake, for a Winnipeg firm, and billed to Minneapolis.

The area is served by the C.P.R. through Prince Albert, by means of its own line from Meadow Lake to Debden on the Big River-Shellbrook road, and from then on to P.A. by running rights over the G.N.R. A considerable amount of livestock is also trucked out to Battleford at a cost of approximately 50 cents per 100 pounds. This livestock trucking has increased, I was told, since the Co-op market at North Battleford was opened. For grain, Meadow Lake has a 24-cent freight rate.

MOST of the settlement has occurred since 1920, and was greatly accelerated during the 1930's, when

a large number of families from the drought areas in the south of the province moved in to re-establish themselves. Contrary to reports of disappointments and losses current at the time, I learned that at least 95 per cent of these people have stayed. In recent years, however, there has been some thinning out of families, owing to the trend toward larger farms.

Land values, incidentally, were surprisingly high. On the black soil of the immediate Meadow Lake district involving perhaps two and one-half townships, I was told that \$7,000 per quarter is a fairly typical price. Indeed, when we left Meadow Lake to go to Green Lake, 38 miles northeast, we stopped at an attractive looking farmstead and met the owner, Aloise Wilfing, a German who came to the area from Germany in 1928, after first spending some time in the Hodgeville and Elrose districts. He told us that he had refused \$20,000 for a half-section along the river. Commenting on the increased cultivation necessary in the Meadow Lake area, as compared with the southern part of the province, Mr. Wilfing said that his gasoline bill on 600 to 700 acres of crop was greater than that of his friends at Elrose, on 2,500 acres.

Old-timers laugh at the location of the town. They say it was built up around a small store originally established on the edge of some boggy land. The result is that many residents and business establishments experience some difficulty in keeping water out of their cellars. The water supply of the town is brought from a distance of about two miles, but otherwise, the supply for the livestock throughout the area is considered satisfactory.

About one-third of the population of Meadow Lake is said to be part Indian. An Indian reservation is separated from the main part of the town only by the C.P.R. property. Here, about two dozen Indian families live;

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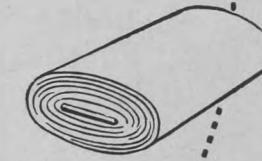


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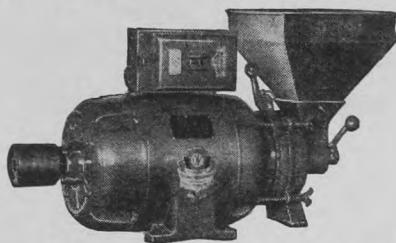
most important organs. Pinkham's Compound not only relieves this monthly pain but also annoying pre-period nervous, tense emotions of this nature. Regular use helps build up resistance against such female distress. Women by the thousands have reported amazing benefits. Truly the woman's friend!

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and at the end of Meadow Lake there is an aggregation of two-room shacks, housing about 75 families, of part-Indian blood. Needless to say, this "Little Chicago," as it is called locally, does not add much socially or economically to the town, or to the surrounding district.

THE climate of the Meadow Lake area is considered satisfactory. The annual precipitation was given to me as 14.8 inches, which compares with a 50-year average at Swift Current of 15.03 inches, and at Qu'Appelle, of 18.76 inches (highest in the province). Other precipitation averages are Battleford 13.39 inches and Melfort 15.06 inches.

66,000 acres classified as degraded-black soil, between Meadow Lake and Loon Lake, at Makwa, after which it is named. There is a further block of 36,000 acres of degraded-black soil named for the Beaver River, along the banks of which it is mostly found, and developed from the same parent material, a lake deposit from a glacier, similar to the glacial deposit around Melfort from old Lake Agassiz. Next follows a 27,000-acre block of grey soil, also lake deposited, around Dorintosh, northwest of Meadow Lake. At Loon River there is a large block of 193,000 acres of poor grey soil associated with a strong glacial till; and finally, along Horsehead Creek, 50,000 acres of degraded-black soil between

three community pastures have been established, with a fourth under discussion. These pastures, incidentally, are co-operatively organized under the Earned Assistance Program of the Provincial Department of Agriculture, under which the Department provides such aid as fencing material.

And so the frontier pushes northward. Often, in earlier days, it was pushed back at the expense of the hardy and courageous pioneers whose material rewards were small, and whose suffering and privation were great. Today, more enlightened governments are frequently ahead of the pioneer with soil surveys, weather records and wiser settlement policies. Good roads follow fairly quickly, and it is not long until nearly all of the appurtenances of our modern civilization make their appearance, including cars, radios, and neon signs. If population presses, and science progresses, no man knows where the limit will finally be set.

## Food Analysis

FROM the point of view of health and human diet, nutritionists should know, as exactly as possible, the composition of all different raw and cooked foods. Protein is an essential food factor, the nutritional quality of which depends on how many and how much of the 22 known amino acids (of which 10 are called essential) are present in the protein. In the early stages it required several months to analyze a single protein completely. As a result of research in the U.S. Department of Agriculture, it is now possible to determine the content of all amino acids contained in a food, within a few days. Eventually when enough foods have been completely analyzed, food composition tables may show the distribution of amino acids instead of protein content based on nitrogen analysis. It would then be possible for a nutritionist to recommend lower cost diets which will be equally nutritious for the human body.

Emigrants from the Orkney Islands played an important part in the 19th century activities of the Hudson's Bay Co. It is believed that at one time three-quarters of the men in the field force of that concern came from the north of Scotland. Ernest W. Marwick is compiling a historic account of the Orcadian contribution to the development of Northern Canada and invites Orkneymen with bits of information to contribute to write him. His address is Westermill, Willowburn Road, Kirkwall, Orkney Islands, Scotland.



Front view of the hospital at Meadow Lake, Sask.

the two forest reserves and at the extreme southern end of the area.

Earlier mention has been made of the fact that the northwestern quarter of Saskatchewan is somewhat drier than the northeastern section. This may be associated with the fact that the former, with an altitude of 2,000 to 2,300 feet, occupies a part of the third prairie steppe, as compared with an altitude of from 1,000 to 1,500 feet in northeastern Saskatchewan, on the second prairie steppe. Some annual precipitation averages for northern points as given to me by Dr. John Mitchell, head of the Soils Department, University of Saskatchewan, are as follows: Waseca, 13.8 inches; Turtleford, 16.2 inches; St. Walburg, 15.19 inches; Loon Lake, 16.2 inches; Witchekan, 15.02 inches; Nipawin, 16.5 inches; Prince Albert, 16.5 inches; Brooksby, 16 inches; and Rabbit Lake, 16.7 inches.

THERE are no organized municipalities in the Meadow Lake area, but Mr. Young informed me that land-use studies are already under way in the farmed portions of Makwa and Loon Lake L.I.D. 986. A district soil conservation and improvement board has been set up, covering the four important L.I.D.'s, and, in addition,



A train load of Xmas trees from Nova Scotia bound for the New York market.

# The Country Boy and Girl

## The Red Snowsuit

by MARY E. GRANNAN

IT was twilight. That time when the day closes its eyes, and night creeps up with its darkness, to bring with it the moon and the stars. Johnny had been watching the night come creeping, from the living room window. Suddenly he called out to his mother. "Mum," he said, "something has happened. The moon came out and so did the stars and now they're gone again. Where did they go?"

His mother looked into the sky. "They've not gone anywhere, Johnny. They're still up there. But that snow cloud has covered them over like a big dark blanket."

"Snow cloud," cried Johnny in delight. "Mum, is it going to snow tonight?"

"I couldn't be sure," said Johnny's mother. "But the weather man on the radio said snow."

"Goody! Goody!" squealed Johnny. "I'll build a snowman tomorrow. Mum, where is my red snowsuit?"

"In moth balls, in the attic," said Mrs. Stewart. "Do you think you're going to need your red snowsuit?"

"Of course," said Johnny. "First because Santa Claus brought that snowsuit to me last year, and second because it's warm and it keeps the snow off me. Mum, I'm going to call up Ricky and tell him to get his mother to unpack his snowsuit too."

Ricky lived next door. When Johnny told him that it was going to snow on the morrow and that they needed their snowsuits, Ricky told Johnny that he had no snowsuit. The next morning proved the weather man to be right. The ground was white. The snow was knee-deep in the gardens. Ricky's mother said that Ricky could not make snowmen in the garden. "You'll get your good slacks wet," she said. "Play on the sidewalk."

Ricky sighed. So did Johnny, and Johnny said, "You need a snowsuit like mine, Ricky."

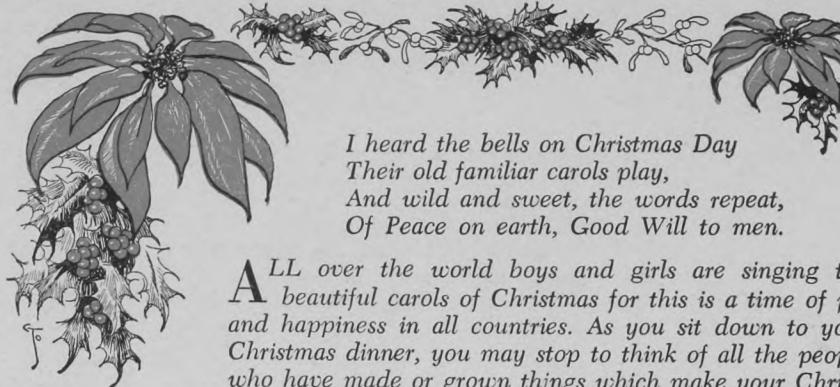
"Now, now, Johnny. Don't be putting ideas into Ricky's head. We can't afford a snowsuit just now. But of course Santa Claus may have other ideas," said Ricky's mother.

Ricky smiled widely, and said, "Say, Johnny, would you mind if I asked Santa Claus for a snowsuit exactly like yours?"

"No," said Johnny. "I think it would be fun. We could be the red snowsuit twins then. Let's write to Santa Claus this very minute and ask him to bring you one just like mine."

They did. They ran to the corner and slipped the letter in the post box, and then went to work on the snowman. Johnny had to do all the hard work, because he could go into the garden. Ricky packed the big balls that Johnny rolled to him.

That night, a weary Johnny hung his snowsuit, which he had brushed carefully, on a hanger in his clothes closet. The next morning it was on the floor. He wondered about that. He knew he had zipped the suit to the hanger. He was more amazed when the morning following, he found the suit again on the floor. He wondered then if anyone had been in his



*I heard the bells on Christmas Day  
Their old familiar carols play,  
And wild and sweet, the words repeat,  
Of Peace on earth, Good Will to men.*

ALL over the world boys and girls are singing the beautiful carols of Christmas for this is a time of joy and happiness in all countries. As you sit down to your Christmas dinner, you may stop to think of all the people who have made or grown things which make your Christmas a very special time. Your turkey, vegetables and Christmas tree, you will likely supply yourself, but the holly and mistletoe you use for decoration will come from British Columbia, England or United States. The nuts you enjoy eating come from South America, Europe and the southern States, while the cranberries which are so tasty with turkey are grown in the eastern section of the United States. The toys you find on Christmas morning come from Europe and Asia. The bulbs you plant so that you may have fresh blooms at Christmas time are shipped from Holland, England or British Columbia. It seems as if the whole world has been working so that you might have a very special Christmas.

You want your Christmas tree to look beautiful so here are some decorations you can make yourself. From brown paper or light cardboard cut out a candy cane, a Christmas stocking and a bell. To cover these shapes use colored linings from old envelopes or colored pages from magazines or catalogues which you cut up into odd shapes. Paste these on both sides of your three shapes, then outline all the joins with black crayon. You could make a lot of these gay decorations for your tree.

*I have enjoyed these monthly chats with you  
boys and girls. MERRY CHRISTMAS!*

room. He went to the open window, and on the sill in the snow, were the tiniest footprints he had ever seen. He called his mother to see them.

"Well," she said, "upon my word, it does look as if you'd had a visit from a Brownie, Johnny."

"But why should a Brownie come in here, pull my snowsuit from its hanger and go away?" asked the little boy.

"Perhaps he took the snowsuit with him, Johnny," said Mrs. Stewart. "It would be easy enough for a tiny fellow to pull the suit from the hanger, but he'd never be able to hang it up again."

"Well, I'm going to find out about this," said Johnny, "and I know how I'm going to do it too." That night, after he'd had his bath, cleaned his teeth, and put on his pyjamas, Johnny climbed, not into bed, but into the snowsuit. He stood there quietly under the hanger. It was not long before Johnny heard tiny bells coming from somewhere. To his great surprise, a tiny red sleigh, driven by one tiny reindeer, landed on the porch roof. A Brownie got out of the sleigh, leaped to the window sill and then into the room and to the clothes closet. He tugged at the snowsuit. It did not fall from the hanger.

"Holly berries, and Christmas candles!" he muttered. "Now what's the matter with the snowsuit tonight?"

"Not a thing," laughed Johnny, "except that I'm in it, and I want to know why you've been coming to my room night after night and carrying it away."

"You're stupid if you don't know," said the Brownie. "You helped Ricky to write the letter. He asked for a snowsuit exactly like yours, and how does Santa Claus match the color and size if he doesn't have it there to look at. So please get out of that snowsuit so I can take it to Santa."

"I learned it last night in . . ." Johnny stopped. "Mum," he said, "it's a Christmas secret. Do you mind if I don't tell?"

Mother smiled. She understood. Mothers are like that.

## Winter Landscapes

Part IV of Series

by CLARENCE TILLENIUS

WITH the first snowfall that mantles the woods and fields comes the day the nature lover has been waiting for. Then he takes the census of the wilds, for not until the first tracking snow can he find out exactly what creatures share the winter countryside with him.

And fascinating it is, the tracking of the shy woods creatures. Every animal that walks abroad, from tiny shrew to lordly moose, leaves a record of its doings plain for the skilled tracker to read.

In painting a winter landscape, tracks in snow lend interest and variety in many different ways. They may be used to balance a composition, to direct interest to a main figure, or simply to introduce a shadow or some color into an expanse of snow, say a snow-covered field, which might otherwise be monotonous.

In the accompanying sketch, the trail in the foreground makes a pleasing curve and leads the eye direct to the coyote, the subject of the picture. Notice that there are two sets of tracks in the foreground which tell you that some other animal, perhaps the coyote's mate, has gone before him. When drawing such tracks in snow, make sure what side the light comes from, whether the shadows are long or short, whether the sky is lighter or darker than the snowy fields, the way the sunlight catches the disturbances in the snow and so on. All these things must be studied from nature direct, and they are what make your pictures convincing. It has been said, "Genius is an infinite capacity for taking pains" and every landscape painter who has painted anything worthwhile knows how many are the problems that must be thought through before a good painting can be attempted. But do not imagine that this study is a drudgery. On the contrary, it is a constant delight. If you like drawing and the outdoors, you will rather begrudge the time you must spend away from it.

*Ann Sankey*

"No, I won't," still laughed Johnny. "I'm going along with the suit tonight."

Nothing that the Brownie could say would make Johnny change his mind. So Johnny went along.

Santa Claus was very pleased to see Johnny, but made him promise to keep his visit a secret. "Because, you know," he said, "this snowsuit is Ricky's Christmas surprise, and if you tell him you've been here, the surprise will be spoiled."

Johnny promised to tell no one. The Brownie showed him the sled room, the ski room, the game room, the doll room. In the music room he wound a little music box and Johnny heard a pretty little tune, with these words:

*"I wish you Merry Christmas,  
A merry Christmas everyone.  
I hope this year at Christmas  
That you'll have lots of fun."*

Johnny liked the little song, and hummed it all the way home. The next morning at breakfast he hummed it again.

"That's a pretty little tune, Johnny," said his mother. "I've never heard it before. Where did you learn it?"



# THE Country GUIDE

with which is incorporated

THE NOR'WEST FARMER and FARM and HOME  
Serving the farmers of Western Canada Since 1882

VOL. LXIX WINNIPEG, DECEMBER, 1950 No. 12

## **Wheat Agreement Settlement**

Announcement by the government of final settlement on wheat sales of the last five years must come soon, and indeed may be released before this issue is in the hands of our readers. If that payment is only five cents per bushel, or less, representing the amount in the hands of the Wheat Board from proceeds of sales, there will be extreme dissatisfaction among western wheat producers. They look to the government for a substantial supplementary payment. They will not be put off by being told that the government will make another effort to recover something from Great Britain under the "have regard to" clause of the four-year wheat contract.

During the past five years government policy resulted in severe restrictions upon the income of wheat farmers. Upon that fact rests the present claim of farmers against the government. The situation cannot be more succinctly expressed than it was in a statement issued by the Board of Directors of the United Grain Growers on July 14 last, which was conveyed to the government at that time. It reads in part:

"Such amount should be substantially supplemented by the government of Canada to recognize the great extent to which farm incomes were restricted during three of those crop years by government policies limiting wheat sales prices. For a time the domestic price of wheat was much lower than its value in export. Far more important than that fact was the ceiling of \$1.55 imposed on wheat sales. During one year that applied to all exports and during the two following years to all wheat sold to Great Britain under a contract made by the government of Canada."

Deliberate restriction of wheat prices as a matter of national policy began in September 1943, when the government closed the market and assumed complete responsibility for wheat selling. Thus there was thrown on wheat producers a great burden arising from government policies both for domestic price controls and for wartime assistance to allies. Proportionately it was a greater burden than was carried by other segments of the national economy, or by farmers in the United States and Great Britain.

Contrast the facts which determined wheat prices in Canada with payments during the same period of from \$16 to \$20 million annually in freight assistance to make livestock production more profitable in eastern Canada and in British Columbia. Such payments, since they were inaugurated, have cost the treasury more than \$146 million. Let no one say, therefore, that the national treasury cannot afford a proper settlement of the present legitimate claims of western wheat farmers.

## **Truck Damage to Roads**

Premier Maurice Duplessis receives so little applause outside his own province that we cannot let slip this opportunity to register our approval of his expressed intention to investigate the effect of heavy traffic on the roads of Quebec, and to take appropriate legislative measures.

The problem is not limited to Quebec but is a common state of affairs all over North America. The well-informed Business Week of New York acknowledges that heavy traffic is beating America's fine highways to death and no one seems to know just what to do about it. Anyone who has been on American transcontinental highways at night after the mammoth long distance trucks take to the road can have no doubts about it.

Engineers tell us that the damage which a vehicle travelling at high speed can cause to a road bed is proportionate to the square of its weight. A truck whose tare, plus the weight it is carrying, which is twice as heavy as a car, will cause about four times as much damage travelling at the same speed. If the load on the truck's tires is four times as great as on those of the car, the damage will be 16 times as great. The ratio between relative truck and car weights is frequently much higher than four to one. And there need be no illusion about the speeds at which heavy traffic travels, as anyone who has tried to pass a bus can testify.

The premier of Quebec has posed a tricky question for his administrators because heavy truck travel has come to fill a very important place in modern transportation. In eastern Canada, with its well-developed network of all-weather roads, the movement of merchandise by highway is one of the effective brakes on freight rates. No progressive community will contemplate any material lessening of the flow of goods by road. Regulation, so far as we can see, will follow the pattern of making the operators of heavy vehicles pay their just share of road maintenance, which may be much more than the high licence fee they now pay, or of barring roads to vehicles over a certain maximum load during those seasons when roads suffer damage more readily. At any rate people in the other provinces will join us in wishing Mr. Duplessis well in any effort to approach the problem scientifically.

## **The Winnipeg Milk Dispute**

Householders in Winnipeg critical of the Milk Control Board have persistently advanced the view that consumers' interests have not been considered in the price changes ordered by that body, and that the Board's refusal to grant public hearings, at which consumers could be heard, is further evidence of its contempt for consumer opinion. Under circumstances which suggest intervention by Premier Campbell, to whom the consumers appealed, a public hearing has now been held. Pending the Board's action as a result of this hearing it is inappropriate for us to comment beyond saying that the evidence presented by the consumers contained nothing that the Board has not already studied; beyond the very understandable reluctance of consumers to pay more for an essential dietary item, a view which deserves a good deal of sympathy.

Reviewing the operations of the Board since its inception, one must say that if the charge is true that the Board has persistently weighted the scales against the consumer, milk production would become relatively a profitable business, and there would be an appreciable increase in the volume of milk coming onto the Winnipeg market. The facts do not bear this out. Over the whole period there have been no pronounced surpluses or shortages. The over-all increases seem to have met the increases in the city's population and no more. At the moment there is a sharp decline in production. Farmers who are free to switch from milk to beef find the latter more profitable. One distributor embarrassed by a heavy drop in supplies gave evidence to the effect that the only possible alternative now left is Minnesota. The use of powdered milk is said to be on the increase. By the tests of changes in the rate of production the Milk Board seems to have discharged one of the functions of the free market with an incredible degree of accuracy.

## **Non-Military Spending**

When Graham Towers, president of the Bank of Canada, declared last month that Canadians should pay higher taxes in order to combat inflation, he was paying his respects to what economists call the Quantity Theory of Money. Reduced to its simplest terms it states that prices vary in accordance with the quantity of money in circulation and the supply of goods and services available. An oversupply of money and a shortage of goods leads to higher prices. A scarcity of money and a surplus of commodities leads to price reduction. If the amount of

money which Canadian citizens can command increases faster than the things they can buy, prices are bound to rise.

If a country in a state of virtual full employment, as Canada now is, embarks on a military spending campaign, the number of workers available for the production of civilian goods and services is lowered, and the ensuing reduction in commodities offered for sale will lead to a further price rise. One way of restoring the balance when money is too plentiful is to increase taxation. Citizens will then have less money left wherewith to bid up prices on goods and services. Pushed far enough it will free more workers for the production of war material.

There is, of course, plenty of room for controversy over the practical workings of this theory. High taxation makes saving difficult, and for many impossible. It diverts huge amounts of money into government coffers. Government spending can be one of the worst inflationary tendencies and governments have a tendency to spend money simply because there is lots of it in the till. Civil servants have exalted notions as to the kind of services which taxpayers ought to have. Elsewhere in this issue our Ottawa correspondent tells of the expense involved in the expansion of Canada's statistical bureau. Neither The Guide nor Mr. Cross knows whether the voters in this country would endorse expenditure on such a scale for this purpose, nor if Canada can afford the kind of service planned, but it is items of this sort which, in the aggregate, lead to permanently higher budgetary levels. It is this sort of expenditure which taxpayers and their representatives must scan critically. Governments should practice the economy they mete out to their people.

## **Bulk Sale Agreements**

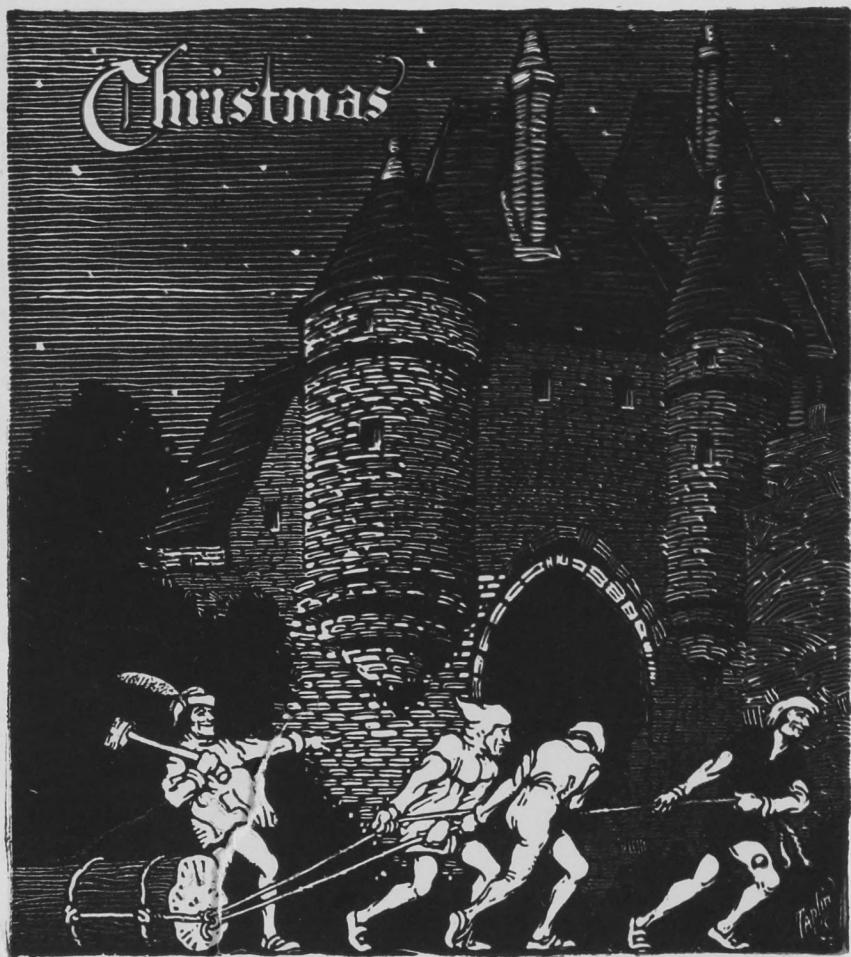
The Australians are facing a new situation with respect to the sale of their wool clip. Keen competition between the Russians and the Americans has pushed the price at wool auctions to the unprecedented and fantastic figure of nearly £1 per pound. If anything like this price can be maintained, that country will be able to sell its last clip for approximately £A500 million, which will nearly pay for all Australia's imports, currently running at about £A550 million.

The Americans, who are the principle buyers, are becoming restive at having to pay these high prices. Washington has, therefore, it is reported, made tentative proposals for the abandonment of the long established auction system of sale in favor of a bulk purchase agreement strangely reminiscent of the Anglo-Canadian wheat deal of 1946. This would peg the price of wool at something below the ruling price, and at the same time serve a political end. In this case it would be to prevent the clip from falling into Russian hands. Australian reception of the proposal is said to have been cool.

Perhaps Canadian wheat farmers are in a position to offer some advice after their experience with bulk sales. As insurance against a severe price decline, which was generally anticipated by wheat farmers in 1946, deals of this sort have high merit. As a guarantee that growers will thereby get the full market value of their produce, such deals are inadvisable. A bulk sale contract at a pre-arranged price may be regarded as insurance against price decline for which the grower must pay a premium. In the case of the U.K. wheat agreement, the loss to the farmer over the four years of its operation represents the premium paid. Governments which underwrite such insurance are bound to insist that the premiums are high, and it requires a lot of persuasion to get back part of the premium even when a government subsequently admits that it was too high.

Even those Canadian farmers who are willing to charge up the losses on the 1946 agreement to experience, with no adverse criticism of its instigators, will look more carefully at any bulk sale offers which may be made in the future. We doubt if they would encourage the Australian wool growers to seize the reported American offer.

# Burning Ye Olde Yule Log



*I*N ANCIENT TIMES the ceremony of burning the Yule Log was a joyous part of the Christmas festivities.

On Christmas Eve the fellmen, having cut down a forest tree, selected the Yule Log from it and dragged it to the manor or castle. At the great open hearth the ceremony of lighting the Log took place. The underbrush kindling was lit and soon the sparks from it ignited the Log.

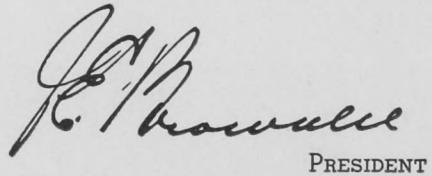
As the flames and the blue smoke swirled up the chimney, chestnuts and apples were roasted and toasted.

Neighbors from the adjoining villages and estates were invited and gathered around the Christmas fire. Stories were told and music played until the stroke of twelve midnight when blessed Christmas morn was ushered in . . .

On Christmas Eve in the farms and homes of western Canada, neighbors and friends for many miles around foregather and exchange gifts and greetings and celebrate the festival of goodwill as of old in the true spirit of the good neighbor which is such a marked and happy feature of our prairie life.

*On behalf of the Board of Directors of  
**UNITED GRAIN GROWERS LIMITED**  
I extend to all farmers and their families*

## The Season's Greetings

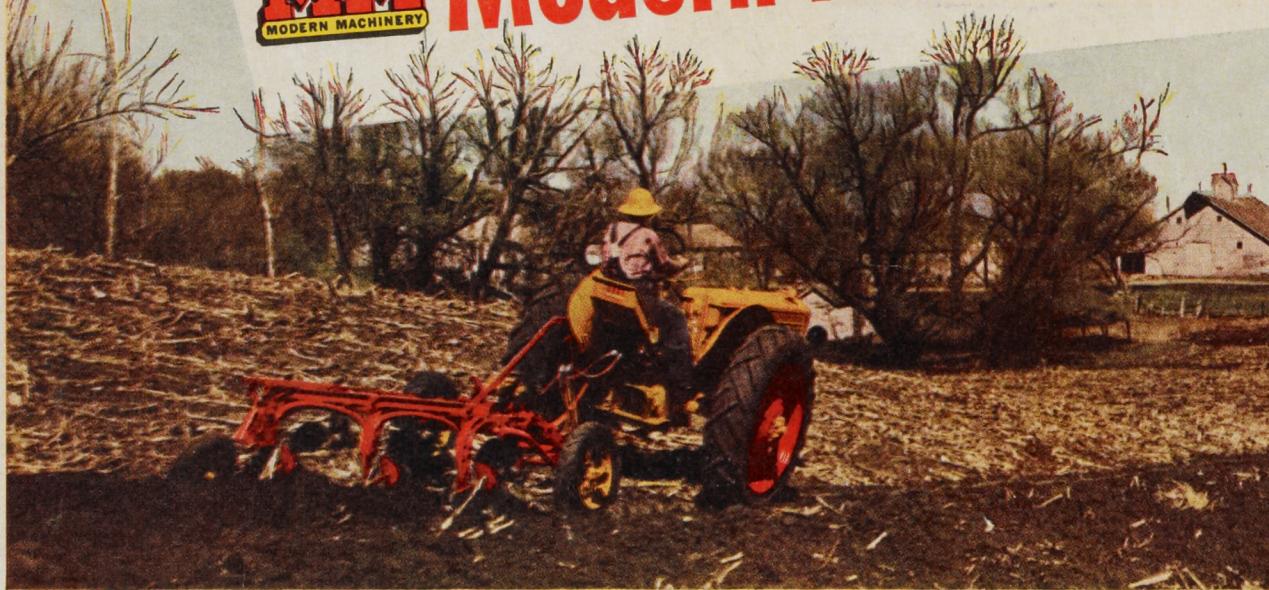


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